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p8

BOOK CLUB
Top picks in kids' books
p19

HOW TO
Super-fun crafts and recipes
p20

December 30, 2022/January 6, 2023
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THE WEEK

Making sense of the world

AMAZING STORIES OF 2022

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

10 historic moments

New developments, ongoing challenges, and big celebrations shaped the US and the world.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Eastern European country of Ukraine has a population of more than 43 million people.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky

Russia invades Ukraine

On February 24, Russia invaded the neighboring country of Ukraine in the largest military attack in Europe since World War II (1939–1945). Russian president Vladimir Putin wanted control of the nation. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky vowed that he and his people would fight back, which they have done throughout the year as the war has devastated their country.

From 1922 to 1991, Russia and Ukraine were both part of the Soviet Union, a group of 15 countries that were run as one state. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Ukraine declared its independence, but Putin says that the nation is part of Russia.

World leaders condemned the invasion and placed heavy economic sanctions (punishments) on Russia. Many nations, including the US, have supplied Ukraine with hundreds of millions of dollars in weapons, funding, and supplies. People around the world have also showed their support for the millions of Ukrainians who have fled to safety in other countries.

Ukrainian troops have stood strong against Russia in key regions. Recently, Russia attacked Ukraine's utility stations, leaving millions of people without heat, electricity, or water as winter sets in. On December 13, about 50 countries committed to sending more than $1 billion in new aid to help the nation.

Ketanji Brown Jackson joins Supreme Court

On April 7, Ketanji Brown Jackson made history when she was confirmed to the Supreme Court of the United States. She is the first Black woman to serve on the most powerful US court of law in its 233-year history. Jackson is also the first justice who has been a public defender (attorney who represents people who can't afford a lawyer).

President Joe Biden nominated Jackson in February to replace Justice Stephen Breyer, who retired in June, and the US Senate approved her by a vote of 53–47. Jackson is a graduate of Harvard Law School and a former federal judge.

After being sworn in on June 30, Jackson heard her first case as a justice on October 3, when the Supreme Court began its current session. At her confirmation, Jackson expressed pride in the nation's progress and said that the appointment was "the greatest honor of my life."

FIRST FEMALE
In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to serve on the US Supreme Court.

The new justice

Marking 100 years of the Lincoln Memorial

May 30 marked the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial, which was dedicated in 1922. Built to honor Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the US, the memorial stands on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Lincoln became President in 1861. During the Civil War (1861–1865), he led the Northern states, which had mostly outlawed slavery, against the Southern states, which wanted to keep slavery. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to end slavery in 1863, and the North claimed victory in 1865. He was assassinated (killed for political reasons) that same year. To heal the nation, Congress proposed a memorial. Its centerpiece is a 19-foot-tall marble sculpture of Lincoln. On its walls, two of President Lincoln's most famous speeches are inscribed beneath murals depicting "Emancipation" and "Unity."

The National Park Service (NPS), which oversees the monument, held anniversary events throughout May. The memorial is more than a celebration of one man, the NPS said. It has become "a symbol of the United States of America."

IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

The statue of Abraham Lincoln

TIMELESS TRIBUTE
Construction on the memorial began on what would have been Abraham Lincoln's 105th birthday.

A gas station in California

Rising prices for gas and goods

The price of US consumer goods, particularly gasoline and food, reached its highest peak in 40 years in 2022. This was due to inflation, which is the rate of increase in the cost of goods and services. In 2022, many goods were at least 7.5% more expensive than they were in 2021. For example, the price of backpacks was up nearly 12%.

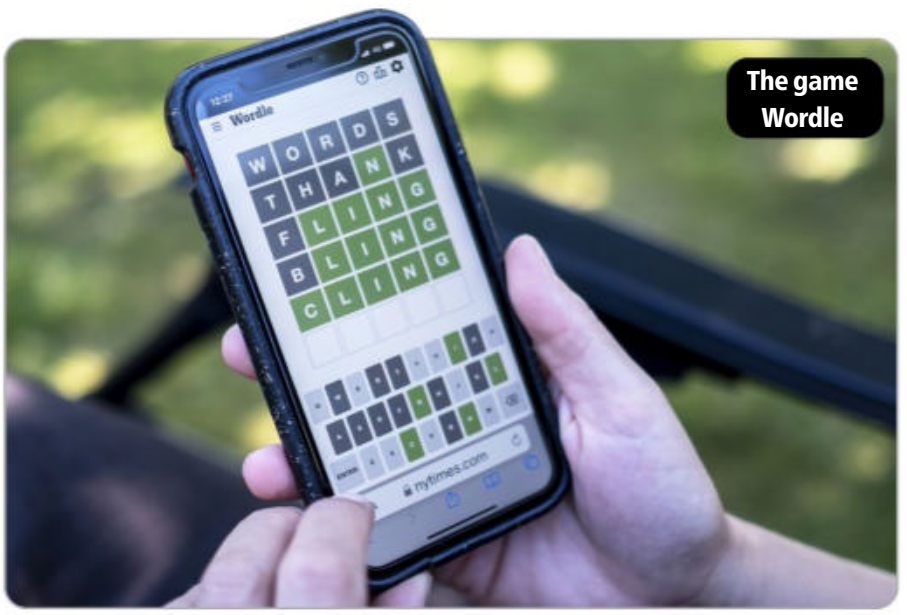
Experts said the high prices were due to a variety of factors. Consumers began spending more after buying less during the pandemic. This led to a demand in goods, which led to higher prices. Many businesses also had to pay higher wages to attract workers, causing them to charge more for their goods. The result was that people couldn't afford to buy as much. By the end of the year, inflation had slowed. In particular, gasoline prices had dropped significantly in most parts of the country.

Millions play new word game

Wordle, a simple online word game played by millions of people every day, reached superstar status in 2022. *The New York Times* bought it in January from Josh Wardle, a software engineer in New York City who created the game as a gift for his word-loving partner.

In the game, players have six chances to guess a five-letter word and can share their results, which show guesses in rows of colored squares, in a text message or on social media. (Green indicates a correct letter in the right spot, yellow is a correct letter in the wrong spot, and gray means an incorrect guess.)

The game became so popular that "Wordle" was Google's most-searched term in 2022. Wardle never imagined it would be such a hit. "It has been incredible," he tweeted, "to watch a game bring so much joy to so many."



The game Wordle

ON THE COVER: ILLUSTRATED BY NEIL DAVIES; GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; JOY HOWARD; ON BOTH PAGES: GETTY IMAGES

The US Capitol building, where Congress meets

POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE
The 2022 midterm elections had the second highest turnout among voters under age 30 in at least the past 30 years.

Midterm elections deliver divided Congress

Millions of Americans voted in the midterm elections on November 8. A midterm happens halfway through a President's four-year term and determines whether Republicans or Democrats (the two major political parties) control the House of Representatives and the Senate (the two parts of Congress). Other state and local races were also determined on November 8.

In the House, all 435 seats were up for election. Many of the races were too close to call on Election Day, but by November 16, it was determined that the Republicans had won the majority of seats. This means that the House changed from being controlled by the Democrats to being controlled by the Republicans. The final count was 222 Republicans to 213 Democrats.

In the Senate, 34 of the 100 seats were on the ballot. As with the House, many of the races were, at first, too close to call. Then, on November 12, Catherine Cortez Masto, a Democrat from Nevada, won her race. The final Senate seat was not decided until December 6, when a run-off election was held in Georgia. Raphael Warnock, a Democrat, defeated Herschel Walker, a Republican.

With those two wins, Democrats will continue to control the Senate. The Democrats have 51 seats (including three Independents who usually vote with Democrats), and the Republicans have 49. The new session of Congress will begin on January 3.

Farewell to a queen

Queen Elizabeth II, monarch of the UK and a group of countries called the Commonwealth, died on September 8 at age 96. The queen reigned for 70 years, longer than any monarch in UK history.

Elizabeth became queen in 1952, at age 25, when her father, King George VI, died. As queen, she had no official political power, but she advised prime ministers, represented the UK to the world, and was head of the royal family. She lived a life of service. "I shall always work...to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples," she said after taking the throne.

The queen's death set off an outpouring of sympathy around the globe. After a state funeral attended by world leaders, she was buried at Windsor Castle, alongside her husband of 73 years, Prince Philip, who died in 2021. Their son Charles became king upon the queen's death. He will be officially crowned in May.

LASTING LEGACY
Queen Elizabeth II reigned longer than any female monarch in world history.

Queen Elizabeth II and her son, King Charles III

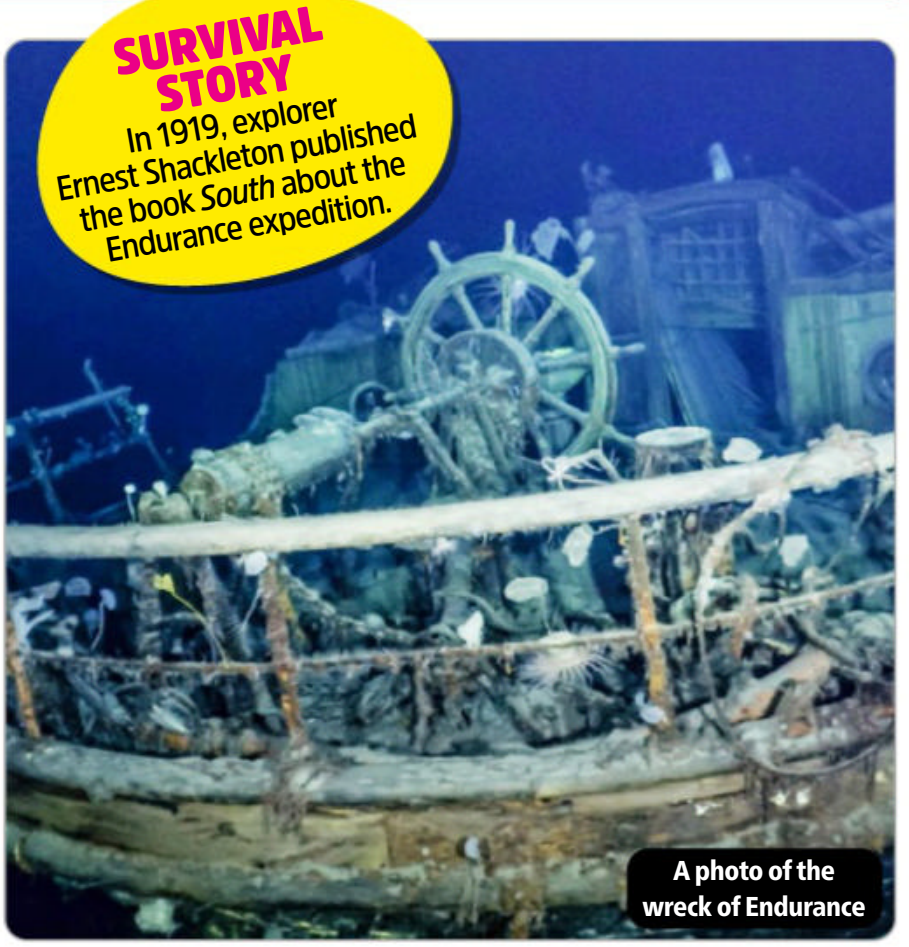
Shipwreck mystery is solved

On March 9, scientists announced that they had discovered the wreck of a famous ship called Endurance, solving one of the biggest mysteries in exploration. Endurance sank near Antarctica 106 years ago. Many people have tried to find it since then, but the icy, dangerous conditions in the water where it was known to have sunk made the search extremely challenging.

In August 1914, British explorer Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men set sail in a 144-foot-long wooden ship from England to Antarctica. They wanted to be the first people to cross Antarctica on foot. But less than 100 miles from the world's southernmost continent, Endurance became trapped in ice in the Weddell Sea. The crew lived on board for nearly 10 months until, in October 1915, ice badly damaged the vessel, forcing everyone to abandon ship. In November, Endurance sank. Shackleton and his crew survived for several months on the ice and were all eventually rescued.

The crew of the recovery mission, Endurance22, spent weeks aboard an icebreaker ship using underwater drones to search for the wreck. Endurance was found 10,000 feet deep, upright and well preserved by the frigid water. Mensun Bound, the director of exploration, said, "We hope our discovery will engage young people and inspire them with the pioneering spirit, courage, and fortitude of those who sailed Endurance to Antarctica."

SURVIVAL STORY
In 1919, explorer Ernest Shackleton published the book *South* about the Endurance expedition.



A photo of the wreck of Endurance

Protesters in Germany support Iranian women.

Massive demonstrations in Iran

In September, protests against the government swept across Iran, marking the largest push for social reform there in decades. The demonstrations were sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, age 22, on September 16. Amini died in police custody after being arrested for showing part of her hair. Under Iranian law, women must completely cover their hair with a hijab (headscarf). Officials said Amini had a heart attack, but her family said she was mistreated.

After Amini's death, thousands of Iranian women and men took to the streets, calling for an end to strict laws that limit women's rights. Government forces beat and arrested thousands of people. Demonstrations in support of Iranian women soon spread across the world. In December, reports indicated that Iran's morality police force, which enforces the dress code for women, was shut down. When *The Week Junior* went to press, that news had not been confirmed, and protests were ongoing.

Winning dog makes history

A bloodhound named Trumpet won the top prize at the 146th Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) Dog Show on June 22, becoming the first of his breed to win the most prestigious dog competition in the US. The WKC dog show, established in New York City in 1877, is the nation's second-longest continuously held sporting event, after the Kentucky Derby, a horse race. More than 3,000 dogs competed in this year's show, held in Tarrytown, New York.

Trumpet was awarded the first place trophy known as Best in Show, which is given to the dog that is considered the best of all breeds in the competition. The 4-year-old from Illinois displayed the distinctive traits of a bloodhound—a wrinkly face and drooping ears. He is new to dog shows, having only started competing in them in January. "I am just so proud of him," said Trumpet's owner, Morgan Fox.

Trumpet the bloodhound

BOTH PAGES: GETTY IMAGES

11 people who made

MAJOR BUZZ
About 11 million US children take part in the Scripps Spelling Bee each year.

"Each of us has it in our own power to make positive change."

TENNIS CHAMPION
Over the course of her career, Serena Williams won 23 Grand Slam titles.

"My dream is to be a professional baseball player for the New York Yankees."

FAR, FAR AWAY
The International Space Station has been in operation since 2000.

Harini Logan

On June 2, Harini Logan, a 14-year-old from Texas, won the 94th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. It was the first time in the bee's history that a competition came down to a lighting-round spell-off to break a tie. Logan spelled 22 words correctly in 90 seconds—seven more than her competitor, 12-year-old Vikram Raju. Logan told *The Week Junior* that competing in bees has taught her to learn from mistakes. "Having a growth mindset is vital in life, not just in bees," she said. In September, Logan was invited to the White House by First Lady Jill Biden.

José Andrés

For more than a decade, Spanish chef José Andrés has been on a mission to feed the world with his nonprofit organization World Central Kitchen (WCK). WCK serves food to people affected by humanitarian crises and natural disasters. This year, the group helped families in Ukraine after the Russian invasion of their country and in Puerto Rico following a devastating hurricane. In March, a documentary film about WCK, titled *We Feed People*, was released. In an interview about the film with *The Week Junior*, Andrés said, "We are stronger when we eat together."

Serena Williams

This year, tennis legend Serena Williams retired from the sport at age 40, departing as one of the most accomplished female athletes in history and one of the first to also become successful in business. She made the announcement in the August issue of *Vogue* magazine, saying she wants to focus more on her family and business. Of her farewell, Williams said she hopes she brought something new to the sport. She played her last professional match at the US Open in September.

Landis Sims

Landis Sims, an athlete who was born without hands or feet, starred this year in a documentary titled *Landis: Just Watch Me.* It follows the Indiana teen over the course of eight years as he goes after his dream of making his high school baseball team. In the film, Sims gets prosthetics that make it easier to move, works hard to improve his skills, and spends time with pitcher Joe Musgrove of the San Diego Padres. The film's director, Eric Cochran, told *The Week Junior* that Sims' story was an important one to tell and that "he is a good spokesperson for anybody going through challenges."

Nicole Aunapu Mann

In October, Nicole Aunapu Mann, a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California, became the first Native American woman in space when she led a mission to the International Space Station. She brought a dreamcatcher, a type of Native American artifact, on board with her. Of her history-making mission, she told Reuters, "It's important that we celebrate our diversity and really communicate that specifically to the younger generation."

GETTY IMAGES (9); COURTESY THE CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION

big headlines in 2022

"I want to remind audiences what fairy tales can be—surprising, unexpected stories."

GOING GLOBAL
In 1931, American Wiley Post became the first person to fly solo around the world.

"I am always willing to learn from other voices."

CHART TOPPER
Harry Styles' album *Harry's House* was one of the most streamed albums on Spotify in 2022.

"The only way I will find out what will work for me in life is by trying it."

Soman Chainani

This was a big year for Soman Chainani, author of *The School for Good and Evil*, a best-selling book series set in an enchanted world inspired by fairy tales. The first title in a new series, *Rise of the School for Good and Evil,* which takes place before the events of the first series, was published in May. In October, the first book in the original series was turned into a hit film for Netflix. Chainani made a brief appearance in the film and served as an executive producer.

Zara and Mack Rutherford

Teen siblings Zara and Mack Rutherford took separate record-breaking flights around the world in 2022. In January, at age 19, Zara became the youngest woman to fly solo around the world. Her trip took 155 days. In August, 17-year-old Mack became the youngest person to fly solo around the world. His journey took 142 days. Zara said her trip taught her that people are more capable than they think. Similarly, after stepping out of his aircraft, Mack said, "Just follow your dreams, no matter how old you are."

Maxwell Frost

A young politician made history in the November midterm elections. Maxwell Frost, age 25, won one of Florida's seats in the US House of Representatives to become the first person of Generation Z (people born between 1997 and 2012) to be elected to Congress. His campaign was about fighting for justice. Frost told *Business Insider* that he believes the US is entering a "new era of politics," which gives him "great hope for the future of this country." Frost will take his House seat when the new session of Congress begins in January.

Harry Styles

British pop star Harry Styles was busy on- and offstage in 2022. In May, he released his third solo album, *Harry's House*, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. He performed his Love on Tour concerts around the world over the summer. And in November, he was nominated for six Grammy Awards, including in the three major categories: Album, Record, and Song of the Year. Outside the music world, Styles worked with the nonprofit HeadCount to register more than 54,000 new voters ahead of the US elections. "If I could vote in America, I'd vote with kindness," he has said.

Mackenzie Scott

Philanthropist and author Mackenzie Scott continued her generous giving streak in 2022. In October, she donated $84.5 million to the Girl Scouts of the USA. It was the largest donation the group had ever received from one person. The funds will help the Girl Scouts hire more staff, make membership more accessible, and expand opportunities for girls interested in leadership and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields.

Nature in the news

A special anniversary and smart solutions to protect wildlife were big stories this year.

DID YOU KNOW?
Giant pandas are excellent climbers. They can begin climbing trees when they are 6 months old.

A giant panda at the National Zoo

Giant pandas mark 50 years in the US

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first giant pandas at its National Zoo on April 16, 1972. It was the beginning of the zoo's program to celebrate and conserve (save) the species. The first pandas at the National Zoo, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, were a gift from China to the US. Today, there are three at the zoo: Tian Tian and Mei Xiang, and Xiao Qi Ji, their cub born in August 2020.

Tian Tian and Mei Xiang came to the zoo in 2000. In July 2005, the Smithsonian's first surviving giant panda cub, Tai Shan, was born. Tian Tian and Mei Xiang have produced four cubs. The three oldest were given to China after they turned 4, as part of the zoo's agreement with China. Tai Shan now has a cub, and his sibling Bao Bao has three. Pandas born in captivity are not released into the wild. The hope is that they will continue to increase the population and that their descendants can one day live in the wild.

In 2021, giant pandas were declared no longer endangered but still vulnerable. Keeper Laurie Thompson said, "At the zoo, the best thing we can do for them is to have them for people to see and want to save them."

A brilliant bird finding

A new study showed that tropical birds really are more colorful than birds from other parts of the world. Scientists studied photos of 4,500 bird specimens, then used computers to measure the color and intensity of the feathers on each bird. The results showed that birds from West Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Amazon rainforest in South America are nearly one third more colorful than those from other regions of the world. The researchers aren't sure why, but they think stable temperatures and plentiful food in the warm countries where tropical birds live may give them a more constant source of energy, which allows them to produce more complex colors. The study will help researchers identify hot spots of colorful bird life and highlight these habitats for protection.

A lilac breasted roller

BIRD BRAINS
Studies show that parrots have sophisticated brains, which help them solve problems and use tools.

Animals and the environment in 2022

WOW! India is home to more wild tigers than any other country. It has about 70% of the world's total.

A Bengal tiger

Tigers come roaring back in Nepal

A July survey of tigers in Nepal found that there are an estimated 355 of them living in the wild, nearly three times the number in 2009. Tiger populations throughout Asia have been decreasing, mainly because of poaching (illegal hunting) and habitat loss. To help reverse the decline, Nepal's government enacted harsher punishments for poaching. Protected national parks were also created to safeguard the tigers and bring money to local communities. And conservationists created pathways through forests to connect populations of tigers and increase opportunities for mating.

Florida takes steps to save manatees

Wildlife officials took bold action to save Florida manatees by creating a plan to feed them.

The Indian River Lagoon in Florida is a warm winter home for manatees, and the animals' main source of food is seagrass, a plant that grows entirely underwater. Over the past 10 years, warmer water temperatures and the growth of algae, which blocks the sunlight that seagrass needs to grow, have made 90% of the seagrass in the lagoon disappear. In 2021, without enough food to eat, 1,100 manatees died.

Wildlife officials are working to improve the lagoon's water quality. Since that can take years, however, a program to stop starvation deaths was launched. Manatees were fed greens, like cabbage and lettuce. The plan worked, and Florida has since committed another $30 million to continuing feeding the manatees.

A pair of manatees

Healthy corals in the Caribbean Sea

Researchers map resilient coral reefs

Researchers studying coral reefs in the Caribbean Sea mapped out which ones are most likely to survive as the world's weather warms up. Coral reefs can be home to thousands of species of marine life and help protect shorelines. However, high sea temperatures cause coral bleaching, which makes the coral reef turn completely white and leaves it less protected against disease.

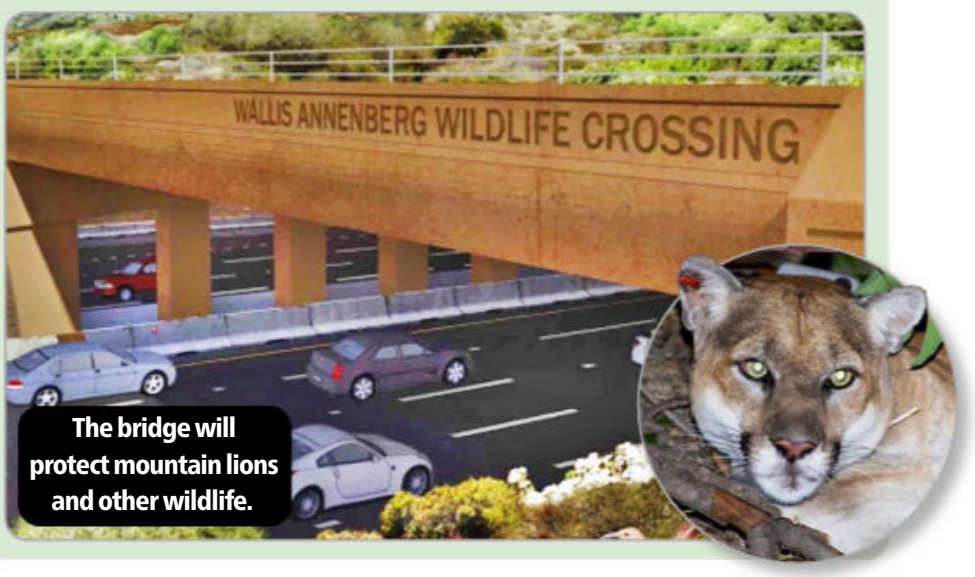
The scientists set out to find coral reefs around Caribbean islands that are most likely to survive both rising ocean temperatures and hurricane damage and made them priorities for protection. The most resilient reefs lie mainly along the northern coast of Cuba. Researchers said protecting these reefs will help "these precious habitats persist."

New bridge aims to help animals

A bridge that will help animals safely cross a busy freeway in Southern California broke ground in April. When finished, the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing will be the largest of its kind in the world.

The crossing is being built primarily to help the area's mountain lions. Mountain lions have gotten killed by cars while attempting to cross California freeways. Other species, like bobcats and coyotes, are also expected to use it.

The safe crossing should help animals find mates from other populations to produce offspring. The new bridge will be 210 feet long and 170 feet wide and will be covered in local trees and shrubs. Construction is expected to be finished in late 2025.



The bridge will protect mountain lions and other wildlife.

GETTY IMAGES (2); NATURE PICTURE LIBRARY; COURTESY OF ANNENBERG FOUNDATION; ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: COURTESY OF SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE; GETTY IMAGES

Daring new discoveries

Scientists saw space in a new light, got a glimpse of prehistory, and changed lives with tech.

DID YOU KNOW?
NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, launched in 1990 and still working, was the most powerful space telescope before the Webb.

Images from the Webb telescope

Images sent from space

The most powerful space telescope in history sent its first images back to Earth this year. The James Webb Space Telescope, which launched in December 2021, is run by NASA with support from the European and Canadian space agencies.

On July 11, NASA and the White House released Webb's first image, which was of thousands of galaxies, including some of the earliest to ever form. Images released the next day depicted a cloud of gas and dust where stars are born, a distant planet's atmosphere, and a dying star.

On August 2, NASA revealed images of the Cartwheel Galaxy, which is 500 million light years (the distance light travels in an Earth year, about 6 trillion miles) from Earth. In August and September, NASA shared images of Jupiter, Mars, and Neptune. Webb captured more detailed views of the planets than have ever been taken before.

Then, in October, NASA unveiled an image of the "Pillars of Creation," large columns of gas and dust where new stars form. They are situated in the Eagle Nebula, which is in our Milky Way galaxy about 6,500 light years from Earth. Webb is just getting started capturing groundbreaking images, according to NASA. Every image "deepens our understanding of the universe, just how big it is, and our place in it," said NASA chief Bill Nelson.

An asteroid's timing

The timing of a huge asteroid that struck Earth about 66 million years ago explains why some living things survived while 76% of all life-forms died out, scientists in Europe said. After a giant blast of heat and fire, dust and ash blocked the Sun, plunging a cold planet into darkness.

The research found that the asteroid struck in spring for the northern half of Earth—when many animals were emerging from snug winter burrows that might otherwise have protected them. Most of those animals went extinct (no longer exist).

Smaller animals in the southern hemisphere, however, were most likely already in their winter shelters when the asteroid struck. These are the animals that survived. When they emerged months later into a changed planet, those that could find food would have spread out around the planet.

WOW!
The asteroid that struck Earth killed off all the dinosaurs except the ancestors of modern birds.

A rendering of dinosaurs with the asteroid overhead

Science and technology in 2022

MILLIONS OF MILES
In 2019, airlines around the world flew a total of 38.9 million flights.

Spirit of Innovation

Electric plane sets records

An aircraft built by aerospace company Rolls-Royce hit a top speed of 387.4 miles per hour and set three world records. The plane, called Spirit of Innovation, became the world's fastest electric vehicle, traveling 345 mph over a distance of 1.86 miles—132 mph faster than the previous record.

For its other two records, the aircraft traveled 331 mph over 9.32 miles and made the fastest climb to an altitude of 1.86 miles, in 3 minutes, 22 seconds. Experts in the aviation industry hope that electric aircraft could one day reduce the harmful pollution produced by air travel.

Cracking a curious cookie case

Crystal Owens, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, set out to solve a scientific puzzle: When you twist open an Oreo cookie, why does the cream filling usually stick to one side? Owens, who called her work Oreology, studies complex fluids, like the cookies' cream filling. She twisted about 20 packages' worth of Oreos, and the cream almost always stayed on one wafer.

Owens believes that as the cookies are made, the filling sticks to the first wafer it touches. "The best scientific research [happens] when someone sees something weird or unknown and takes the time to think, 'I wonder why that happens,'" Owens said.

About 50% of people pull Oreos apart before eating them.

The Monk Skin Tone Scale

Tech updates skin tone range

Harvard University professor Ellis Monk collaborated with Google to create a new range of skin tones to help technology be more accurate, inclusive, and diverse. The Monk Skin Tone Scale includes 10 skin tones and replaces a scale with six tones that has been used since 1975.

Technology such as image searches, photo filters, and facial recognition has not traditionally been designed to detect a wide variety of skin tones, so they often don't work well—or at all—for people with darker skin.

For example, Monk said, an online search for "cute babies" might only turn up babies with lighter skin. "That's not a very inclusive experience for people at all," Monk said. Google said it would integrate the scale across its platforms.

Device helps people walk

Scientists in Switzerland invented an electronic implant (device put inside the body) that helped nine people who are paralyzed to walk again.

One of those patients was Michel Roccati. After a motorcycle accident, his brain couldn't send the correct signals to his legs and upper body. The device worked by picking up the signals, making them stronger, and sending them to the right parts of his body. Roccati, who called it "a gift," can stand up, walk, and climb stairs.

The technology is in its early stages. It's currently being used to address health problems caused by being paralyzed, such as loss of muscle and decreased blood flow.

Michel Roccati (left) and another patient using the device

ROLLS-ROYCE; ALAMY; DR. ELLIS MONK; NEURORESTORE/JIMMY RAVIER; ON LEFT PAGE: NASA/ESA/CSA/STSCI (2); NASA/ESA/CSA/JUPITER ERS TEAM; GETTY IMAGES

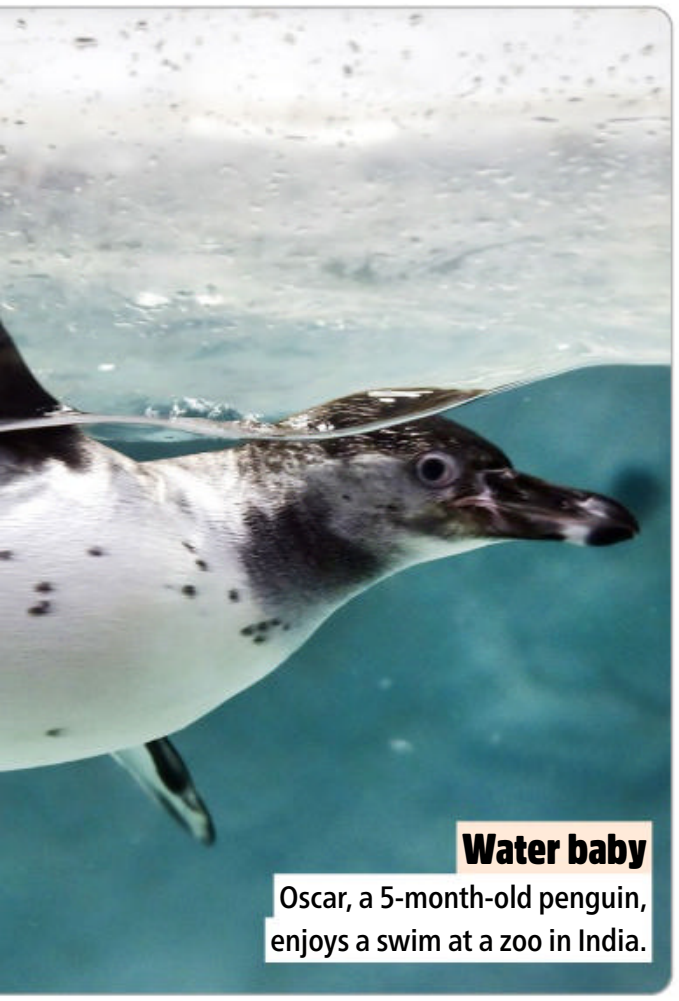
Photos of the year

Bright sight
A hot-air balloon floats in the Sage International Balloon Fiesta in Japan.

Slippery slope
An expert mountain climber scales the ice at a Turkish ski center.

GETTY IMAGES

Photos of the year



Water baby
Oscar, a 5-month-old penguin, enjoys a swim at a zoo in India.

Colorful tradition
A member of an Aztec group participates in an anniversary celebration in Mexico.

Nature's beauty
A heart-shaped lake is surrounded by fall foliage in Canada.

Inspired design
A circular temple in the Andes Mountains in Chile is seen from overhead.

Impressive athletes

Incredible victories and historic performances captivated fans around the world.

Nathan Chen

Erin Jackson

DID YOU KNOW?
The 2022 Olympics had the most women's events in the history of the Games.

Oksana Masters

Sam Wood and Jake Adicoff

Team USA shines at Beijing Games

Under strict Covid-19 restrictions, the world's top athletes met in Beijing, China, for the Winter Olympics and Paralympics (for athletes with physical, visual, or intellectual impairments). At the Olympics, which ran from February 4 to February 20, the US won 25 medals, including eight golds. One star was figure skater Nathan Chen, who set a record with his score in one part of his competition and completed five quadruple jumps in the other. Another winner was Erin Jackson, who became the first Black woman to earn an individual medal in speed skating at the Winter Olympics.

At the Paralympics, from March 4 to March 13, Team USA earned 20 medals. American skier Oksana Masters won seven medals and set US career records for most Winter Paralympics medals and most medals at a single Winter Games. In another highlight, the US earned its first mixed relay cross-country skiing gold thanks to Jake Adicoff and his guide Sam Wood, who came from behind in the final moments for the win.

Batters make baseball history

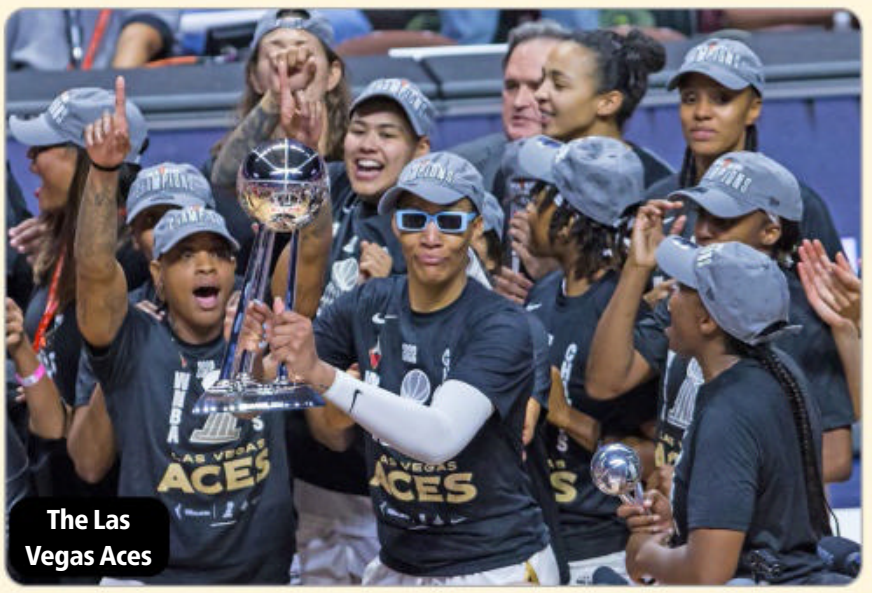
Two baseball players swung their way into the Major League Baseball (MLB) history books this fall. On October 4, in a game against the Texas Rangers at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge hit his 62nd home run of the 2022 MLB season after weeks of anticipation. With that, he broke the record for the most home runs in an American League (AL) season, which had stood since 1961. Judge is only the fourth player to hit at least 62 home runs in a single MLB season. "I had a good feeling off the bat," he said of his record-breaking hit. The ball was caught by a spectator in the outfield and was sold at auction in December for $1.5 million.

Judge's milestone came less than two weeks after St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols hit the 699th and 700th home runs of his career in a game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California, on September 23. Pujols is the fourth player in MLB history to hit 700 homers. He joined former players Babe Ruth (714 career homers), Henry "Hank" Aaron (755), and Barry Bonds (762) in the exclusive club. On October 8, Pujols, age 42, played his last game before retiring. By then, his home run count was up to 703.

STAR PLAYER
In November, Aaron Judge was named the Most Valuable Player in Major League Baseball's American League.

Aaron Judge

Sports in 2022


The Las Vegas Aces

NBA and WNBA champions

On June 16, the Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics to become the 2022 National Basketball Association (NBA) champions. This was the team's fourth title in eight seasons and the first time Warriors guard Stephen Curry was named NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP).

On September 18, the Las Vegas Aces won their first Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) championship. They beat the Connecticut Sun. Aces point guard Chelsea Gray averaged 18.3 points per game throughout the series and was named Finals MVP.

Argentina takes World Cup title

The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar ended on December 18 with Argentina as the champion. The team beat 2018 champions France in an incredible final that was tied 3–3 after extra time and decided with a penalty kick shootout.

Argentina was led by star Lionel Messi, who had never won a World Cup. He scored twice in the final and became the first player to score in each elimination round at a single World Cup. He won the World Cup Golden Ball, an award for the most outstanding player. He is the first player to have won it multiple times.

France's star Kylian Mbappé scored all three goals for his team in the final. He scored a total of eight goals at this year's World Cup and won the Golden Boot, an award for the top scorer.

Argentina celebrates.

The US Women's National Team

Equal pay for female soccer players

Members of the US Women's National Team (USWNT) scored a major off-the-field victory in February. They reached a deal with the US Soccer Federation (the group that oversees US soccer) that ensures they will be paid the same as the US Men's National Team (USMNT). USWNT players were awarded $22 million to make up for the years when they weren't paid equally.

Players from both national teams will now split earnings when either one plays in the FIFA World Cup, the top soccer competition in the world. As a result of the USMNT's performance at the recent World Cup, the teams will share at least $13 million, which is more than the women earned from their World Cup appearances in 2015 and 2019 combined.

Top athletes retire

Several of the biggest stars in sports said goodbye to competing this year. The departures began in February, when National Football League legend Tom Brady said he was retiring—and changed his mind 40 days later.

In July, American track star Allyson Felix ran her final competitive race at the 2022 World Championships. During her career, she won 11 Olympic medals, more than any other female track and field athlete in history.

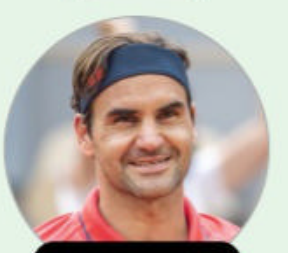
In the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), Sylvia Fowles of the Minnesota Lynx and Sue Bird of the Seattle Storm stepped away from the court when their teams' seasons ended. Both women hold WNBA records, won championships and several Olympic golds, and made multiple All-Star Game appearances.

Roger Federer, one of the best tennis players in history, played his final professional match in September. He has won 20 Grand Slams, the most important tournaments in tennis. Women's star Serena Williams also played a farewell match that month, then hinted she might be like Brady and return. (Read more about Williams on page 6.)

Allyson Felix

Sylvia Fowles

Sue Bird


Roger Federer

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Pop culture standouts

Groundbreaking stars, updated looks at the past, and catchy songs attracted attention.

A scene from *Minions*

Rise of Gru breaks record

This summer was extra hot at the box office thanks to *Minions: The Rise of Gru*, the fifth film in the *Despicable Me* franchise. The animated comedy-adventure broke the record for a July 4th holiday weekend opening, taking in more than $123 million over four days. Many of the moviegoers were teens who were inspired by the #GentleMinions trend on TikTok and wore formal clothing to theaters. The film has gone on to earn nearly $370 million in the US, making it one of the top 10 highest-grossing movies of 2022.

In the *Despicable Me* films, Gru is a genius and supervillain, and the Minions are his helpers. The franchise began in 2010 with *Despicable Me* and was followed by sequels in 2013 and 2017. In 2015, a spin-off, *Minions*, was released. *The Rise of Gru* is a sequel to that film. It is about how the workers and Gru came together. The movie helped the franchise earn more money than any animated franchise in history. It has taken in more than $4 billion worldwide. A fourth *Despicable Me* film is due out in July 2024.

Jim Orr, president of domestic theatrical distribution at Universal Pictures, the studio behind *The Rise of Gru,* said that its successful debut proved that "an incredibly well-crafted, brilliantly acted, hysterically funny film" will get families to "pour

Air and Space Museum reopens

After months of renovations, the West End of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, reopened to visitors in October. The museum contains artifacts related to aviation and space exploration. With eight new and updated galleries, the museum is now "more vibrant," head curator Jeremy Kinney told *The Week Junior.* One new addition is an X-wing Starfighter from *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*. Going forward, the museum will tell more stories about men and women in aerospace history. "We're making sure that we inspire people with technology, but we're also inspiring them to see themselves," Kinney said.

An exhibit at the museum

Arts and entertainment in 2022

DID YOU KNOW?
About 700 different species of dinosaurs have been identified.

Prehistoric Planet

Series brings dinosaurs to life

Experts from the worlds of wildlife films, science, and Hollywood teamed up to create the series *Prehistoric Planet*, which premiered on Apple TV+ in May. The show imagines dinosaur life about 66 million years ago by mixing computer-generated 3D imagery (CGI) with actual nature footage. The goal was to make it seem like a film crew went back in time and observed dinosaurs' natural behaviors. Producer Tim Walker said the creators wanted viewers to see how similar the creatures were to today's animals. "They weren't monsters," he said. "They were magnificent."

The Bad Guys

Popular books made into a movie

The best-selling book series *The Bad Guys*, by Australian author Aaron Blabey, became an animated action-comedy that arrived in theaters in April. The movie and books are about animal criminals who decide to become good. The big-screen version was one of the most popular kids' films of the year.

Blabey's book illustrations are scratchy black-and-white drawings, but the film brought the characters to life with colorful 2D and 3D animation. Director Pierre Perifel told *The Week Junior* that the look was inspired by animation and graphic novels from France and Japan. As in the books, the film's message is about redemption and not judging people. "Some people can do bad things," Perifel said, "but that doesn't mean they're always bad."

Encanto music tops the charts

It was a magical year for Disney's musical *Encanto*. Not only did it win two big Best Animated Feature awards, but songs from the film became major sensations.

Encanto's soundtrack made it to number one on the Billboard 200 and topped the chart for eight non-consecutive weeks. The single "We Don't Talk About Bruno" was in the top five of the Billboard Hot 100. It became the highest charting song from a Disney animated movie since "Colors of the Wind" from the 1995 film *Pocahontas* made it to number four. *Billboard* charts the most popular music in the US based on sales, streams, and other data. The Billboard 200 lists albums, and the Hot 100 lists songs.

Eight of the original songs in the film, including "We Don't Talk About Bruno," were written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator and star of the musical *Hamilton*. Each of his *Encanto* songs made the Hot 100, earning him the honor of being *Billboard*'s Hot 100 Songwriter of 2022.

Encanto

Diverse characters shine on TV

Three new television series made sure more people are represented on screen. *El Deafo* on Apple TV+ is about a girl with hearing loss who imagines she is a superhero. The Disney+ series *Ms. Marvel* follows the first Muslim superhero in the Marvel universe. And the Apple TV+ comedy *Best Foot Forward* centers on a boy with a prosthetic (artificial) leg. It is based on the life of comedian and paralympian Josh Sundquist. He told *The Week Junior* that diverse characters can influence viewers: "I think they will react differently the next time they interact with someone like me in real life."

El Deafo

APPLE TV+ (2); DISNEY; DREAMWORKS ANIMATION LLC; ON LEFT PAGE: ILLUMINATION/UNIVERSAL PICTURES; JIM PRESTON/SMITHSONIAN

THE WEEK Junior
TOP VIDEO GAME OF 2022

WOW!
Four months after it was released, Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga had been played by 5 million people.

Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga

Journey into *Star Wars* films

Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga is a sci-fi adventure game for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and the PC. Released last April, it was the biggest launch in Lego games history.

The Skywalker Saga was the sixth entry in the main Lego Star Wars video game series. It is the first Lego Star Wars game to have playable levels set in the nine films (called episodes) of the main *Star Wars* story. The films were released as three trilogies.

Players can kick off their adventure at the start of any trilogy. If you want to play through the saga from *Episode One*, you can begin as Obi-Wan Kenobi. To kick the game off in the original trilogy, you hop into an X-Wing Starfighter with a young Luke Skywalker. If you're into the newest films, you could start off as Rey, Finn, or Poe from those. The game has more than 300 playable characters, including characters only big fans will recognize.

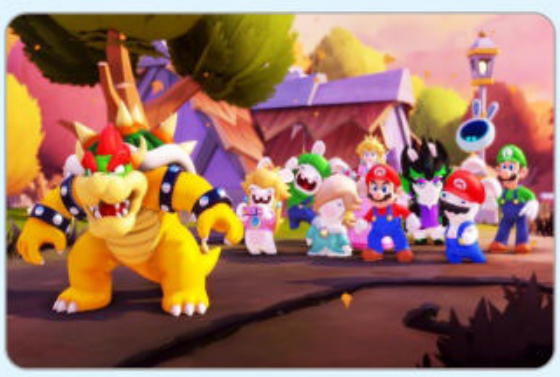
Each film in the game has five different levels. With access to 23 planets and more than 100 different vehicles, you can explore locations such as Tatooine and Dagobah, plus ships like the Millennium Falcon. You'll also re-create some big film moments with moving mini-figs. In addition to all that, the Skywalker Saga has side quests and challenges for players who want to explore every corner of the famous galaxy.

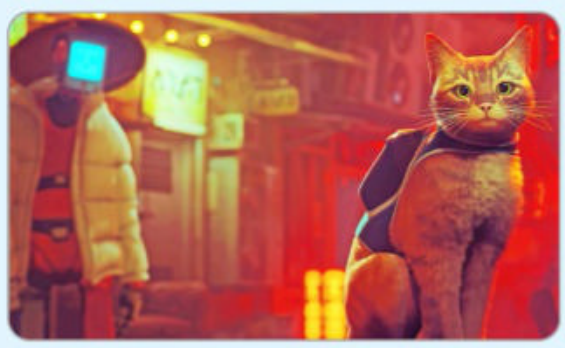
In November, a new version of the game was released for the same platforms. Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga Galactic Edition features more characters and additional features that are not in the original edition.

RUNNER-UP GAMES OF THE YEAR

MARIO + RABBIDS SPARKS OF HOPE
Nintendo Switch

In this crossover game, a villain plots to steal creatures called Sparks, a combination of Lumas (magical star creatures in the Mario franchise) and goofy, bunny-like Rabbids. Mario and his friends must solve puzzles and win battles to save them.





STRAY
PlayStation systems and the PC

A city full of robot people is the setting for this puzzle platform adventure. You play as a cat that has been separated from its family. Much of the exploring and puzzle solving requires pushing and pulling things with the cat's claws and using its small size to find hidden secrets. The game's creators studied their own cats for inspiration.

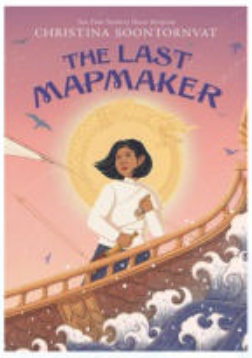
BEAR AND BREAKFAST
Nintendo Switch and PC

In this simulation game, a bear named Hank and his friends try to revive an abandoned resort. They need to rebuild it, decorate it, and attract guests. If that's not hard enough, there's also a lingering mystery in the woods that starts to haunt the business. It's up to Hank to figure it out.

LEGO/TRAVELLER'S TALES; UBISOFT; BLUETWELVE STUDIO; ARMOR GAMES STUDIO

Fantastic reads this year

Out of all of the new books *The Week Junior* featured in 2022, these seven picks were among the most popular. With memorable main characters, creative plots, and exciting endings, these titles are all guaranteed page-turners!

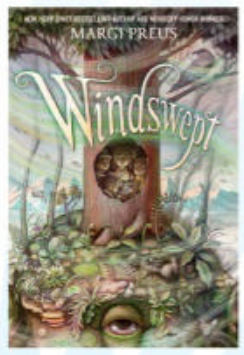


BEST ADVENTURE The Last Mapmaker

By Christina Soontornvat

(Candlewick Press)

A girl who can perfectly copy anyone's handwriting takes off on a thrilling trip aboard a royal boat. Dragons, danger, and riches are all part of her high-seas adventure. She also uncovers a secret about her country's history. Filled with suspense, this adventure novel was written by an author who received a Newbery Honor in 2021. It may have the best ending of any book you've read all year. *Ages 8–12*



BEST FANTASY Windswept

By Margi Preus, illustrated by Armando Veve

(Amulet Books)

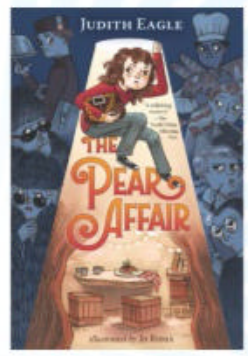
The intriguing plot will grab you from page one. Tag lives in a town that forbids children to be outside until they're 15 years old. The rule was made to protect young people from a fierce wind that can sweep them away. Tag's older sisters disappeared after a windstorm. Years later, Tag joins a group that embarks on a dangerous adventure that may help her find her siblings. You can't help but root for Tag as she shows courage and resourcefulness. *Ages 10–14*

BEST SURVIVAL STORY Northwind

By Gary Paulsen

(Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers)

Against all odds, Leif is given a chance to escape a fishing village where there's a disease outbreak. He paddles north in a canoe until he's too weak to go on. Will he be able to find food and grow strong enough to cross the high waves? You'll be on the edge of your seat as Leif tries to make his way to safety. The vivid descriptions of nature will sweep you into the story. *Ages 10–14*

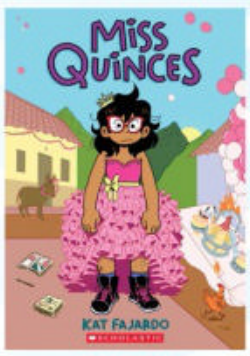


BEST MYSTERY The Pear Affair

By Judith Eagle, illustrated by Jo Rioux

(Walker Books US)

The nanny that Penelope had when she was younger used to send her letters from Paris. But Penelope hasn't received one in months, and she's worried. While Penelope is in Paris with her parents, who are on a business trip, she sneaks out of the hotel room to track the nanny down. Using clues from old letters, Penelope finds out that she left under mysterious circumstances. This story will keep you guessing until the very end. *Ages 8–12*

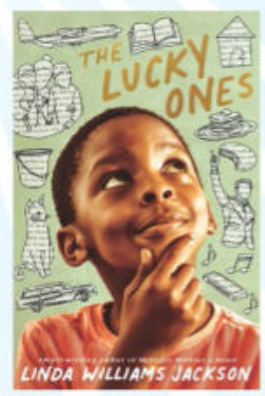


BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL Miss Quinces

By Kat Fajardo

(Graphix)

The comic panels in this graphic novel perfectly capture the main character's mood. Suyapa (nicknamed Sue) doesn't like frilly pink dresses or being the center of attention. Yet that's exactly how Sue's mom envisions her quinceañera, a celebration for her 15th birthday. After a lot of drama and compromises, a twist of fate may shift the party's direction. The art is bright and dynamic. *Ages 8–12*



BEST HISTORICAL FICTION The Lucky Ones

By Linda Williams Jackson

(Candlewick Press)

It's 1967, and 11-year-old Ellis doesn't have electricity, indoor plumbing, or enough food. He tries to help his mom make ends meet. A teacher Ellis admires gives him a copy of the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and invites Ellis to be part of a group that welcomes well-known politicians to his home state. The invitation changes Ellis's life. Long after you've finished reading this book, Ellis and his big heart will stay with you. *Ages 8 and up*

BEST SCI-FI A Rover's Story

By Jasmine Warga

(Balzer + Bray)

This page-turner's unique format gives you different perspectives. In the chapters, Res, a robot vehicle, worries that he's not good enough to go on the mission to Mars and will let down NASA scientists. In letters, the scientist's daughter writes that she wishes her mom spent more time with her than with Res. You can understand both sides, and they come together in an emotional way. The story also weaves in fun facts about space. *Ages 8–12*

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; ILLUSTRATIONS: GETTY IMAGES

Make the year's top recipes

Breakfast, lunch, dessert, and a drink—these are the culinary creations kids loved most.

KITCHEN SINK BARS

Ingredients

- Parchment paper or foil
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, cubed
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- ¼ teaspoons salt
- 4 ounces bittersweet chocolate
- ½ cup broken pretzel pieces
- ½ cup potato chip pieces
- ¼ cup toffee bits (such as Heath)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F and line a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with parchment or foil. Allow it to overhang on two sides.
2. Using an electric mixer, beat the butter and sugars until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides as needed, about 5 minutes. Add the eggs and vanilla, and beat one minute more.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, cornstarch, and salt.
4. With the mixer on low, add the dry ingredients and mix until combined. Chop the chocolate and fold it into the batter. Add the pretzels, potato chips, and toffee bits, reserving a sprinkling of each for the top.
5. Spread the batter in the baking dish and top with reserved chocolate, pretzels, potato chips, and toffee bits. Bake 30 to 35 minutes, until the edges are golden and set and the center is still slightly wobbly. Cut into 12 squares when cool.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a mixer, oven, or stovetop for any of these recipes.

FRIED OR SCRAMBLED?
The average American eats about 279 eggs every year.

BREAKFAST FRITTATAS

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 4 slices bacon,chopped
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 10 eggs
- 6 tablespoons heavy cream
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 375° F. While it preheats, coat 10 wells of a muffin tin with cooking spray.
2. Heat a skillet over medium heat. Add the bacon and cook until crisp, about 4 minutes. Drain on a plate lined with a paper towel, then toss in a small bowl with the shredded cheddar cheese.
3. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, heavy cream, pepper, and salt.
4. Evenly distribute half of the bacon and cheese mixture into the 10 muffin wells. Add the egg mixture to the wells, filling each about two-thirds full. Sprinkle the remaining bacon mixture and parsley on top.
5. Bake the frittatas until they are set in the center, about 15 minutes. Let cool slightly before removing from the pan. Serves 5, with 2 frittatas per person.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; JOY HOWARD; ON RIGHT PAGE: JOY HOWARD

ANCIENT PASTA
The oldest known recipe for macaroni and cheese was found in an Italian cookbook from the 1300s.

EASY MAC AND CHEESE

Ingredients

- ¾ pound rotini pasta
- ¼ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 2 ¼ cups shredded cheddar
- ½ cup shredded Gruyère cheese
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 ¼ cups whole milk
- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour

Instructions

1. Boil the pasta according to the package directions. Once done, drain it and set it aside.
2. While the pasta cooks, combine the smoked paprika, salt, and a few grinds of pepper in a small bowl. In another bowl, toss together all the cheeses. Place the milk in a liquid measuring cup and have it ready.
3. In a large heavy pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the flour and whisk to combine. Slowly whisk in the milk a half-cup at a time, continuing to stir until the sauce is smooth. Add in the spice mixture and stir to combine. Lower the heat slightly and continue to whisk constantly until the mixture has thickened and has the consistency of thick gravy.
4. Turn off the heat and add the cheese mixture a few handfuls at a time, whisking until the cheese in the pot is melted before adding another handful. Add the pasta and stir to coat completely. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

SWEET SLUSHIES

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups strawberries
- 2 lemons, halved
- 3 tablespoons fine sugar
- 2 cups ice

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife and blender.

Instructions

1. Carefully use a knife to trim the strawberries, cutting off the green tops. Then cut each strawberry in half (or into four pieces if they are large strawberries). Place the strawberries in a blender.
2. Use a peeler to cut a 1-by-3-inch piece of lemon zest off the bright yellow rind of one lemon.
3. Squeeze the juice from three of the lemon halves into a small bowl. Measure out ¼ cup of the lemon juice and pour it into the blender. Add the strip of lemon zest to the blender.
4. Add the sugar and ice to the blender. Cover and purée until the mixture is fully blended. Divide mixture between 2 glasses.

Create fun and easy crafts

These were the projects our readers said they most enjoyed making in 2022.

CARDBOARD TUBE ELEPHANT

What you need

- Paper towel tube
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Black marker or paint
- Hot glue, white glue, or adhesive dots

WARNING! Ask an adult's permission before using a knife or hot glue.

Instructions

1. Print out the elephant template from tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ElephantCraft. Follow the template's instructions to trace the elephant onto a paper towel tube and cut it out.
2. With an adult's help, use a craft knife to carefully saw into the tube for the ears. Fold the ears forward. Paint or draw on eyes with a marker.
3. To make the legs, cut a ½-inch ring off another paper towel tube. Cut the ring in half. Glue the legs under the elephant's torso. For a baby elephant, shorten the torso length and cut the legs shorter.

Reprinted with permission from *Toilet Tube Treasury* by Jodi Levine, a SuperMakeIt book, ©2022

COLORFUL WOVEN BRACELETS

What you need

- 3 straws
- Tape, such as masking tape
- Large ball of yarn (or several balls if you'd like to use different colors)
- Scissors
- Wooden skewer

Instructions

1. Place the 3 straws together, side by side. Tape the 3 straws together at the top.
2. Cut three 20-inch pieces of yarn. Thread one piece through each straw, using the skewer to push it down until you can pull the other end out.
3. Knot the 3 pieces of yarn together at the taped end of the straws, leaving about 4 inches of yarn coming out of the top. Tape that end of the straw loom to the table, which will keep it steady as you weave.
4. Cut a piece of yarn, as long as you'd like, for your first color.
5. Tie one end of your yarn around the straw all the way to the left, below where it's taped down.
6. Start weaving: Use the loose end of yarn to go under the middle straw, then over the right straw. Loop your yarn back under the right straw and then over the middle straw and under the left straw. Now go over the left straw and continue weaving until you run out of yarn or want to switch colors.
7. Cut another piece of yarn, in a different color if you like, and tie it to the end of your original piece of yarn. Continue weaving.
8. When you have made your bracelet long enough to fit around your wrist, finish the row and knot the loose yarn end onto the middle woven loop.
9. Remove the tape holding the loom down as well as the one holding the straws together.
10. Holding the 3 straws, gently slide the bracelet off the straws toward the knotted end.
11. Tie the 3 loose ends into a double knot.
12. Have someone help you tie the 2 ends to form a bracelet around your wrist. You can leave it long enough to slip it on and off, if you prefer.

AMY GROPP FORBES; JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; ON RIGHT PAGE: JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT

How to

DID YOU KNOW?
Washi tape, a crafting material that originated in Japan, is made of rice paper.

WASHI TAPE NOTEBOOK

What you need

- Washi tape in assorted colors and sizes
- Solid-colored notebooks or journals
- Scissors
- Black permanent marker

Instructions

1. To make stripes: Cut pieces of tape that are a little longer than the notebook. Stick them to the front, folding the extra over the cover.

2. To make a burger: Cut a piece of yellow tape that's a few inches long to make the top of the bun. Place it on your notebook. Next, add slightly smaller strips of washi tape for other items on your burger, like pickles, lettuce, tomato, and meat. Finish with more yellow tape for the bottom bun. Snip tiny rectangles to make sesame seeds for the top bun. Spell out your name in tape letters too.

3. To make flowers: For tulips, overlap short pieces of tape to form V shapes. Make daisies by crisscrossing 3 or 4 pieces of tape. Add long strips of green tape for stems and diamond-shaped green pieces for leaves.

4. To make a dog: Place one long strip of tape on the notebook for the animal's body. Add 2 thinner pieces, overlapping at an angle, for the snout. Use a small square on top for the head. Cut thin pieces of tape to make the tail and legs, and a rectangle with one slanted edge for the ear. Draw on the nose and eye.

STRAW MARBLE MAZE

What you need

- Recycled square pizza box
- Scissors
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Straws
- Tacky white glue or hot glue
- Glass marble

Instructions

1. With an adult's help, cut off the top flap of the pizza box so you have a large square piece of cardboard with short sides.

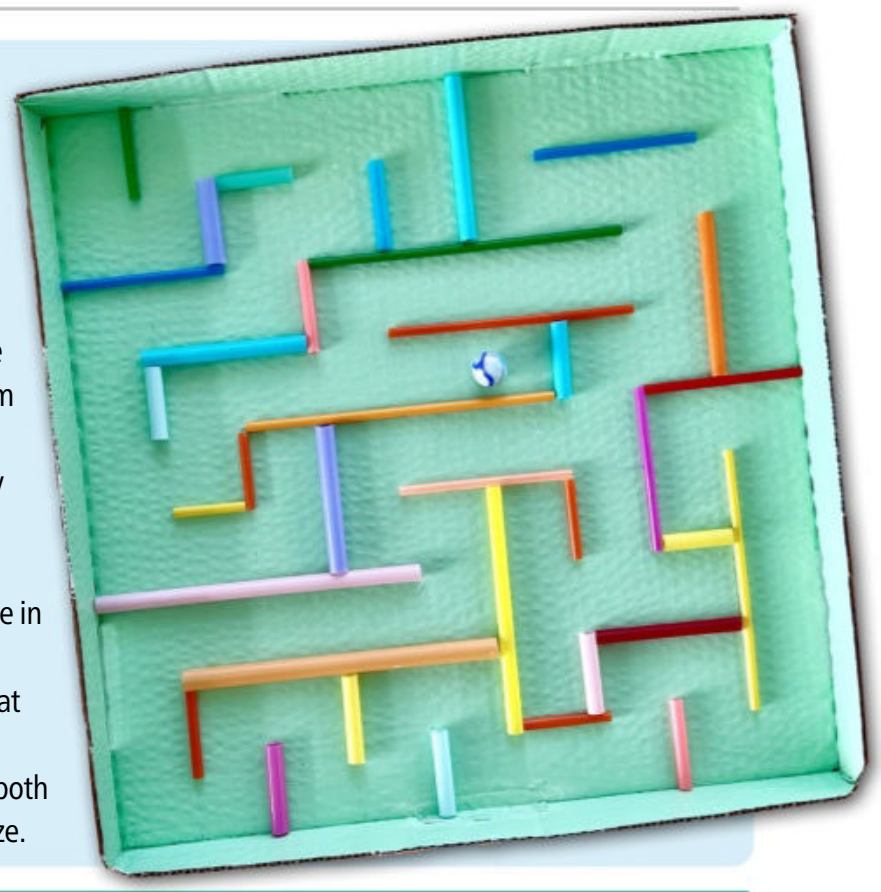
2. Paint the inside of the box, including the sides. Let dry.

3. Using a ruler and pencil, draw a grid on the painted part of the box with nine evenly spaced lines going from top to the bottom and another nine lines going across.

4. Design a maze on the grid. First, select one square as the entry point of the maze and one as the exit. Use a pencil to draw a path between the entry and exit squares. Remember to add some turns and dead ends. Erase the original grid lines that are in the way of your path, as well as the path line you drew.

5. Cut pieces of straws to the different lengths of the grid lines that are left on the maze. Glue them on top of the pencil lines.

6. Place a marble in the start square and then hold the box with both hands. Gently tilt the box to direct the marble through the maze.



WOW! On December 31, more than one billion people worldwide watch the ball drop in New York City on TV.

Reflect on your year

Mark the end of 2022 with a fun and interesting activity.

The end of the year is a time when many people reflect on their life over the past 12 months, as well as look to the future. It can be fun to reminisce about awesome things that happened, interesting things you did, fun places you went, and goals you accomplished. Reviewing your past year can also help you start to consider what you might like to try doing in 2023. Here are some ways to mark 2022 before you ring in a fresh new year.

Compile a review

At the end of the year, many newspapers, magazines, and websites create a "Year in Review" that rounds up the most popular news stories they published. (We're doing that in this issue of *The Week Junior*!) Consider creating your own version by writing down the year's key events in your life. You can use the form on the page at right to jot down your thoughts about the year. If you'd like, you can share it with your family.

Create a top 10

A top 10 list is a fun way to recall the absolute best moments of your year. You can probably think of a few off the top of your head. If you get stuck, try scrolling through photos on a parent's phone starting in January 2022. You might come across a proud moment or an exciting event that you forgot about. Besides creating your own top 10 list, consider asking family members to make their lists to share.

Highlight your wins.

Write yourself a letter

If you would like to work through more personal thoughts about how your year went, writing a letter to your future self could be a great option. After you've written the letter, seal it in an envelope and write the date you want to open it on the front. You can choose to open it six months from now, a year from now, or in a few years. When you open the envelope, it will be interesting to see how you've changed and grown.

Make a scrapbook

Commemorate your year by letting your creativity shine through. Using a notebook, glue down photos from the past year that remind you of some of your best moments. Add captions using colorful markers. Then decorate the pages with paint, stickers, and items you cut and glue on from newspapers and magazines to make the scrapbook extra special.

4 ways to ring in the new year

Celebrate the beginning of 2023 with one of these clever ideas.

Let in fresh air

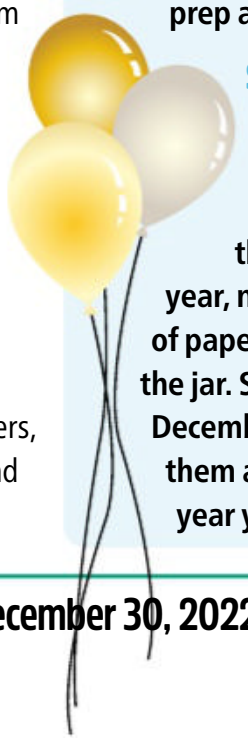
On New Year's Eve, many cultures around the world open a window at the stroke of midnight to let out the old year's air, usher in the new air, and bring good luck.

Wish for something

On sticky notes, write down what you hope will happen in 2023—for yourself, your family, or the world. Then stick them on a bulletin board or bedroom wall where you can read them for inspiration.

Set a goal

Challenge yourself to learn something new in 2023. For example, if you want to learn to cook, you could offer to help your family prepare dinner every Friday night in January. You could help choose the recipe, grocery shop for the ingredients, and then do the prep and cooking.



Show gratitude

Write "2023" on a jar. When good things happen throughout the year, note them on slips of paper and put them in the jar. Set aside time in December 2023 to read them and reflect on the year you had.

GETTY IMAGES; ON RIGHT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

My 2022 Memories

Name Age Grade

What is your favorite memory of 2022?

What are you most proud of when you think back on 2022?

What is something that surprised you about 2022?

Draw a picture of yourself doing something memorable in 2022.

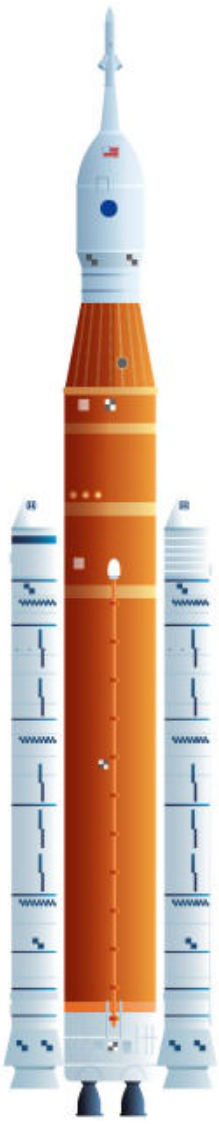
SPECIAL BONUS SECTION

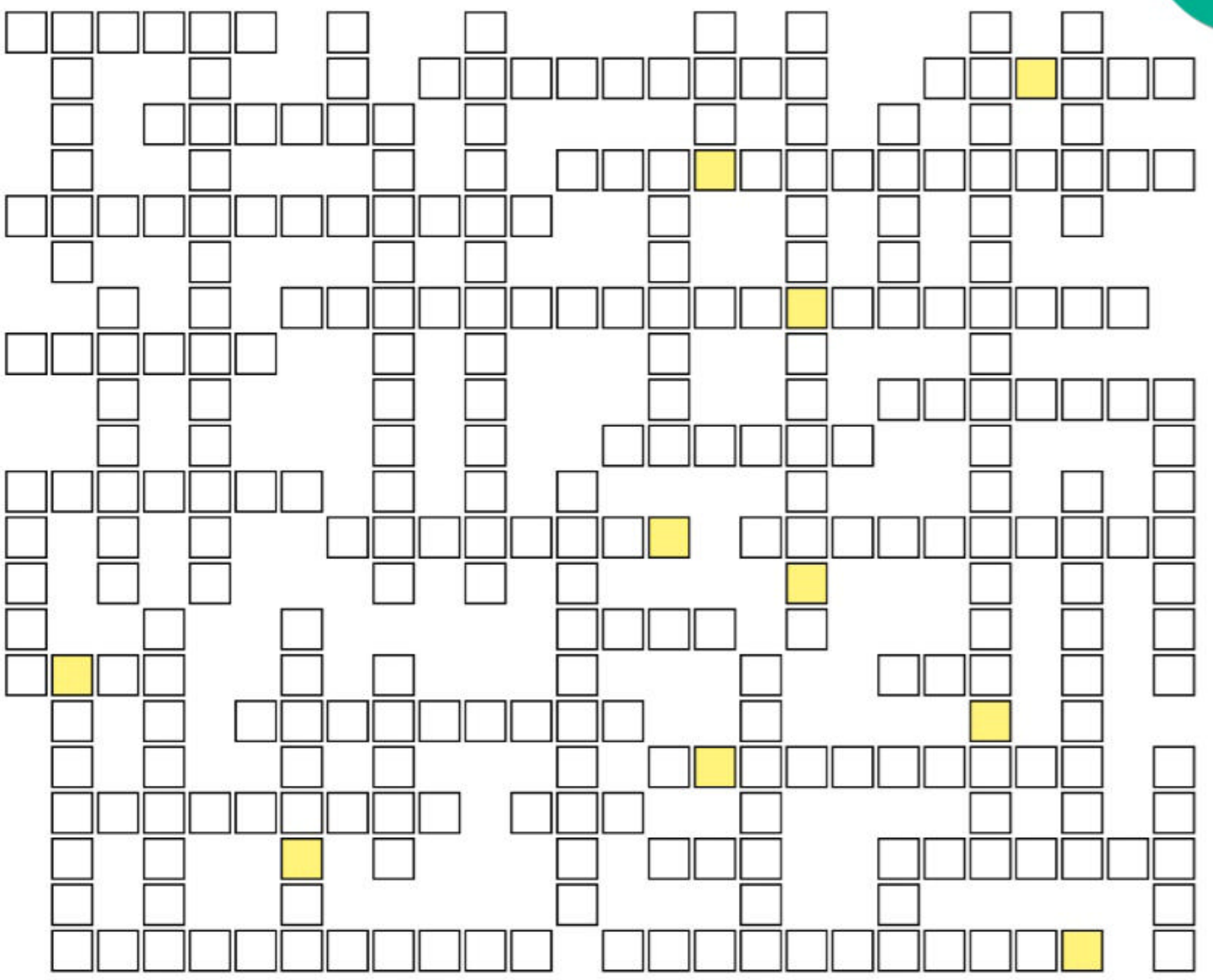
Boost your brainpower

Super 2022 Crisscross

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37.

Each of these names and events from 2022 fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid? When you're done, read the highlighted letters, in order from top to bottom, to get a word that describes everything you've filled in.





3 letters
CDC
FDA
GAS
MLB
TUT

4 letters
K-POP
NATO
VOTE

5 letters
BIDEN
BISON
FAUCI
ROVER
TIGER

6 letters
ASTROS
GENOME
RIGHTS
SCOTUS
TIKTOK
WORDLE

7 letters
ARTEMIS
BEIJING
ECONOMY
EL DEAFO
ENCANTO
MINIONS
TURKIYE
UKRAINE

8 letters
JEOPARDY
PENGUINS
WORLD CUP

9 letters
BLACK HOLE
CHOCO TACO
CORAL REEF
ENDURANCE

10 letters
NATHAN CHEN
PICKLEBALL
WEDDELL SEA

11 letters
SIMONE BILES
SPELLING BEE
SUPPLY CHAIN

12 letters
HURRICANE IAN

13 letters
CLIMATE CHANGE
OLIVIA RODRIGO

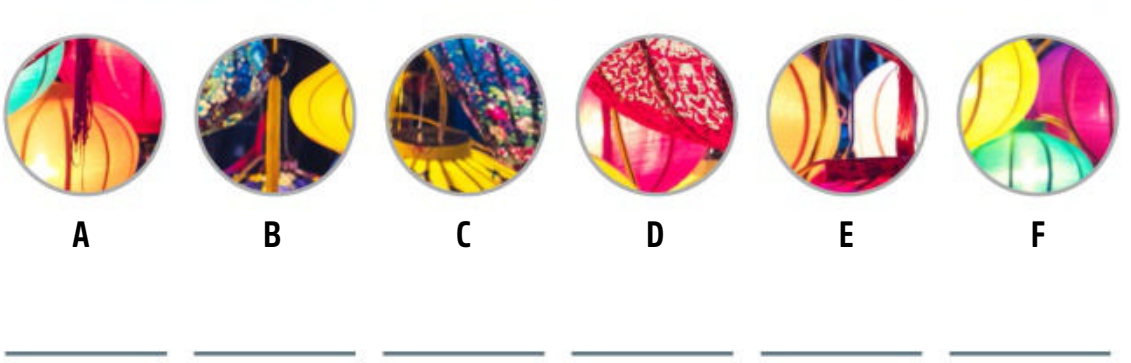
14 letters
QUEEN ELIZABETH
SERENA WILLIAMS

19 letters
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

DETAILS, DETAILS

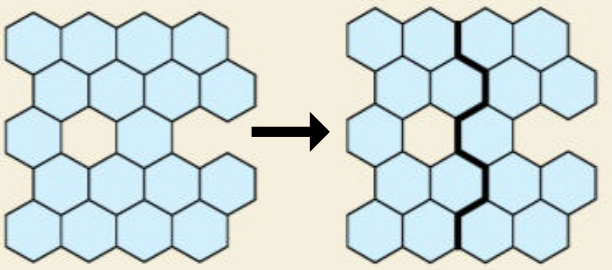
Six pieces have been removed from this photo of lanterns. Can you match the circular details under the photo with the numbered sections they came from?



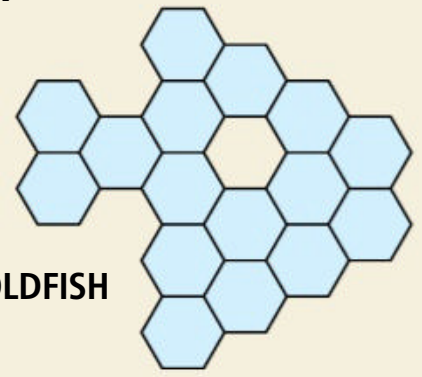
DIVIDE THE SHAPES

Divide each figure into two identical pieces, as in the example. The pieces will not need to be rotated.

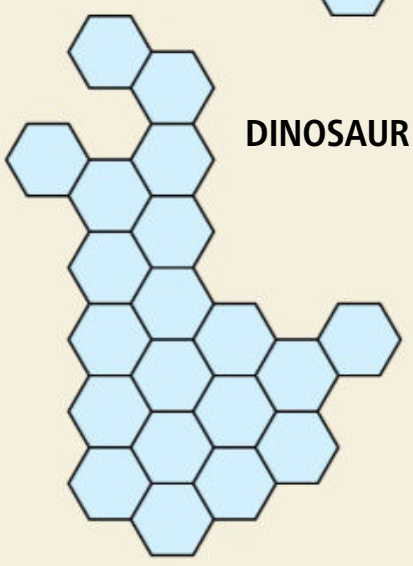
EXAMPLE:



PAC-MAN



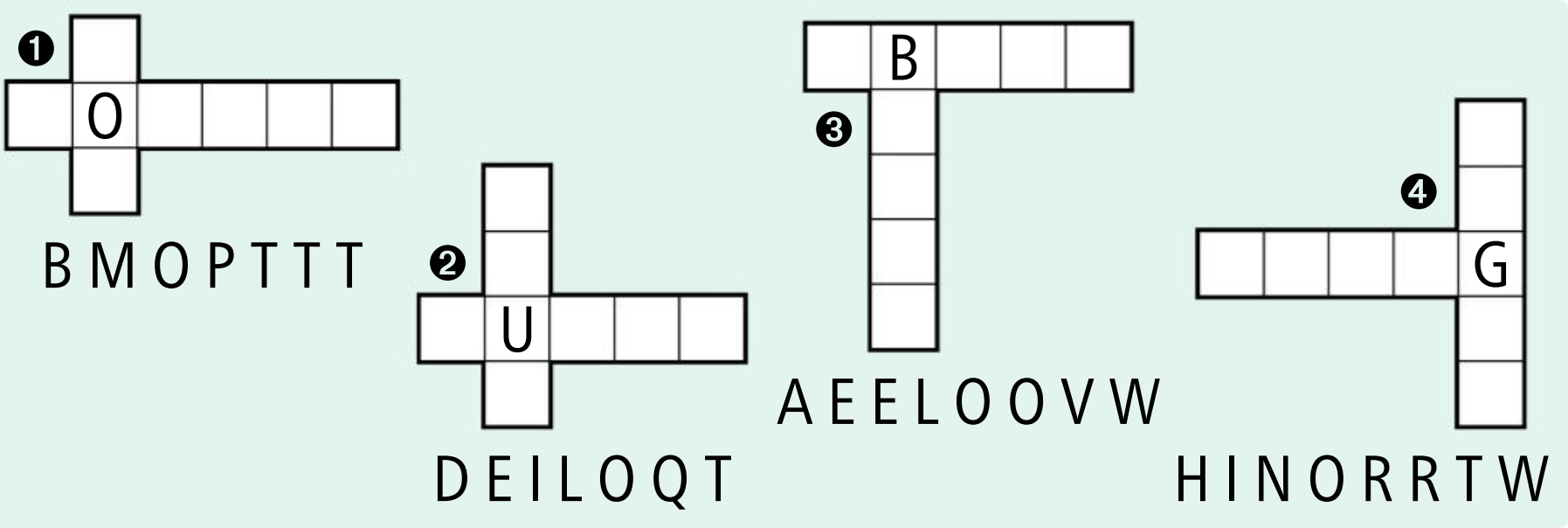
GOLDFISH



DINOSAUR

Opposite pairs

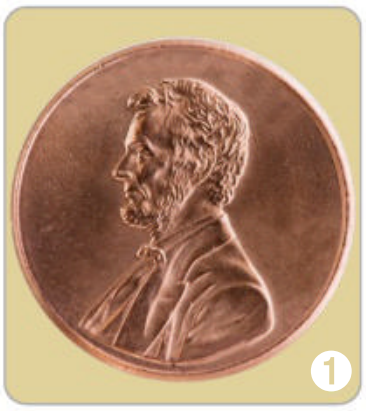
Use the letters given beneath each grid to fill in two words that are opposites, like GIVE and TAKE. The letter where the words cross is given.

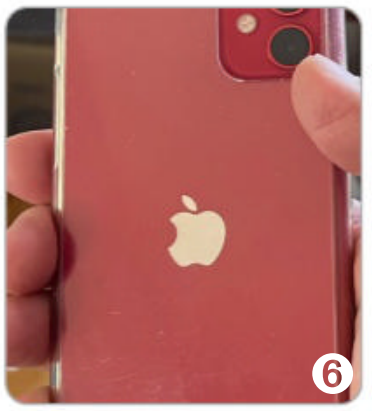


BOTH PAGES: PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: GETTY IMAGES

MIRROR, MIRROR

Each of these images is familiar, but some have been reversed from the way they are usually seen. Can you tell which ones are the mirror images?





Made to order

For each category, place the nine groups of three letters into the blanks to get three nine-letter words that fit the category. Keep each group of three letters in the order shown without rearranging. One three-letter group has been placed to get you started.

NES	WIS	ISI
ANA	SIN	~~MIN~~
OTA	LOU	CON

US states

MIN ___ ___

___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___

ONI	HOV	OMS
PEP	MUS	ANC
HRO	IES	PER

Pizza toppings

___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___

EDB	FRE	MAR
TER	INE	SPE
IGH	SUB	OAT

Water transport

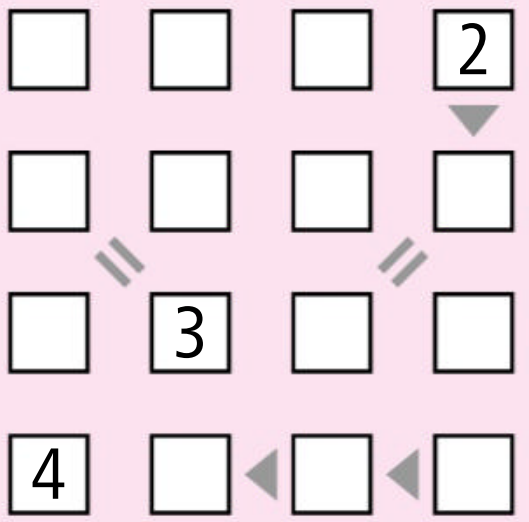
___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___

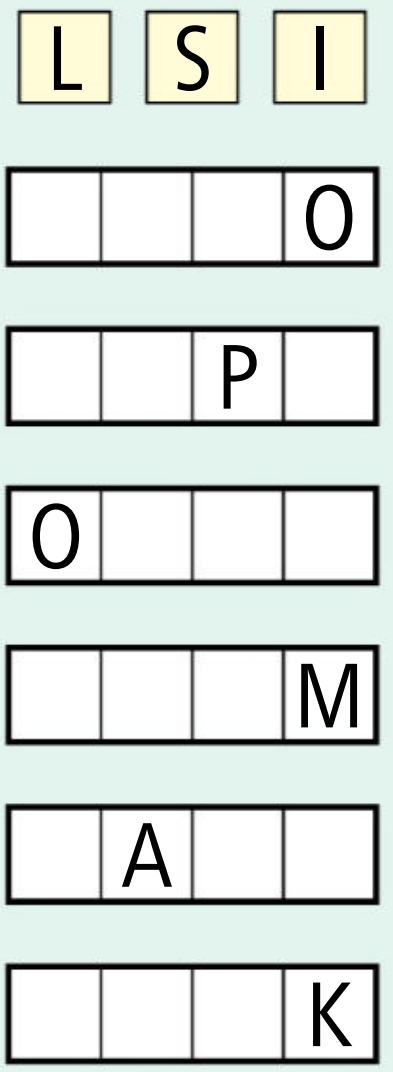
Higher, equal, lower

Place the numbers from 1 to 4 exactly once in each row and column to complete the grid. Each triangle points from a higher number to a lower one. An equal sign means that both boxes contain the same number.



JUGGLING ACT

Use the letters L, S, I in any order to complete each four-letter word.



Super winter word search

BRR! All the words in this chilly igloo begin with BR. Can you find them all in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

```
                B R I T I S H
          B R R D R A T B V I S
        S I O E F B O S R R B L O R
      B S M E W R I B R O N Z E O N H
    N K R R H O T H G U O R B S G C U B
  I Y A B A W A B N G W D I H S N T C R
  A N E H S Z B R O N T O S A U R U S O B
S B R O W N B R E A D E O B O A U W R R G O B K R
R N O B D A T D B F S H C N A B R S B T B H T A E R B
L I Z A R B H S O E M E U C R B B R U S Q U E B N R R
A U O   G A G K C I T S M O O R B B M S A B K B B O E
U R       T I A Y R O N W U R R B I R R R K C I R B E
B B       I R L L B L N U I A B R I C A B R A C I R Z
N T       B B E L D I R B R B B R A W N Y R R R D A Y
A I       B R A K E G D I R B N Y L K O O R B N E N
```

BRACES
BRACKET
BRAHMS
BRAILLE
BRAKE
BRAN
BRATWURST
BRAWL
BRAWNY
BRAY
BRAZEN
BRAZIL
BREAK
BREATH
BREED
BREEZY
BREW
BRIBE
BRIC-A-BRAC
BRICK
BRIDE
BRIDLE
BRIEF
BRIGHT
BRIM
BRISK
BRITISH
BROADWAY
BROCCOLI
BROKEN
BRONCO
BRONTOSAURUS
BRONZE
BROOD
BROOKLYN BRIDGE
BROOMSTICK
BROUGHT
BROUHAHA
BROWN BREAD
BROWNIE
BROWSE
BRUINS
BRUNCH
BRUNO
BRUNT
BRUSH
BRUSQUE
BRUSSELS

Spot the difference

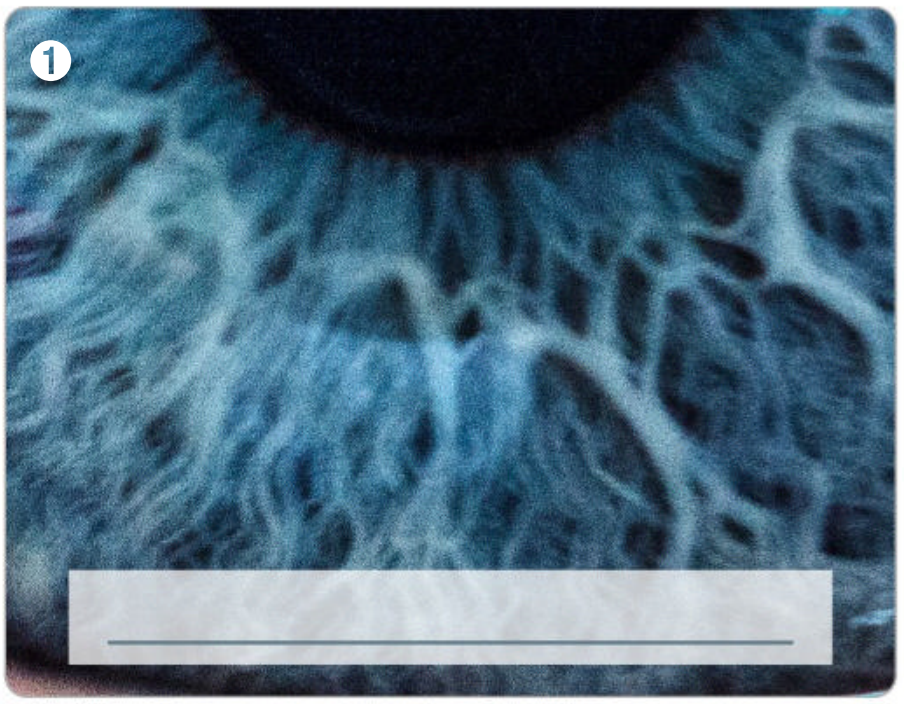
These two pictures of a New Year's message appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

BOTH PAGES: PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: GETTY IMAGES

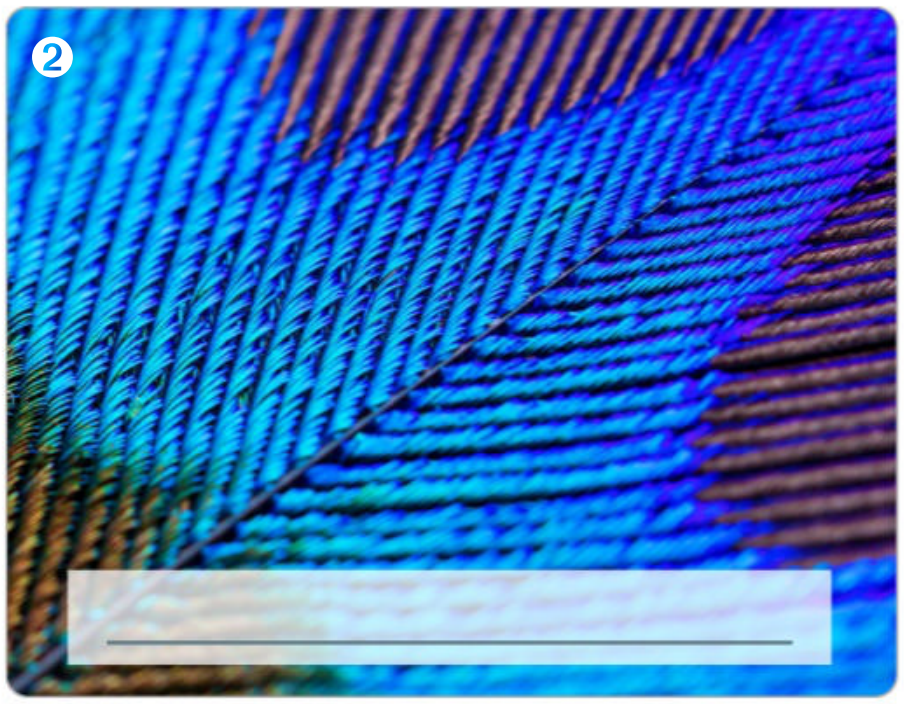
Up close

Each of these photos is an extreme close-up of something familiar. Can you recognize each one?

1



2



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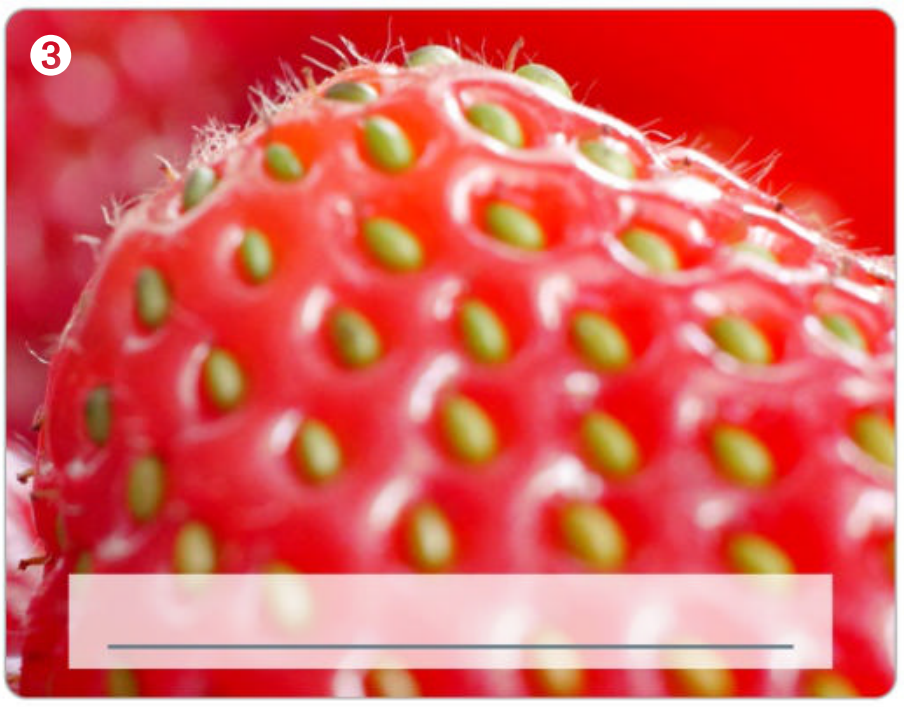
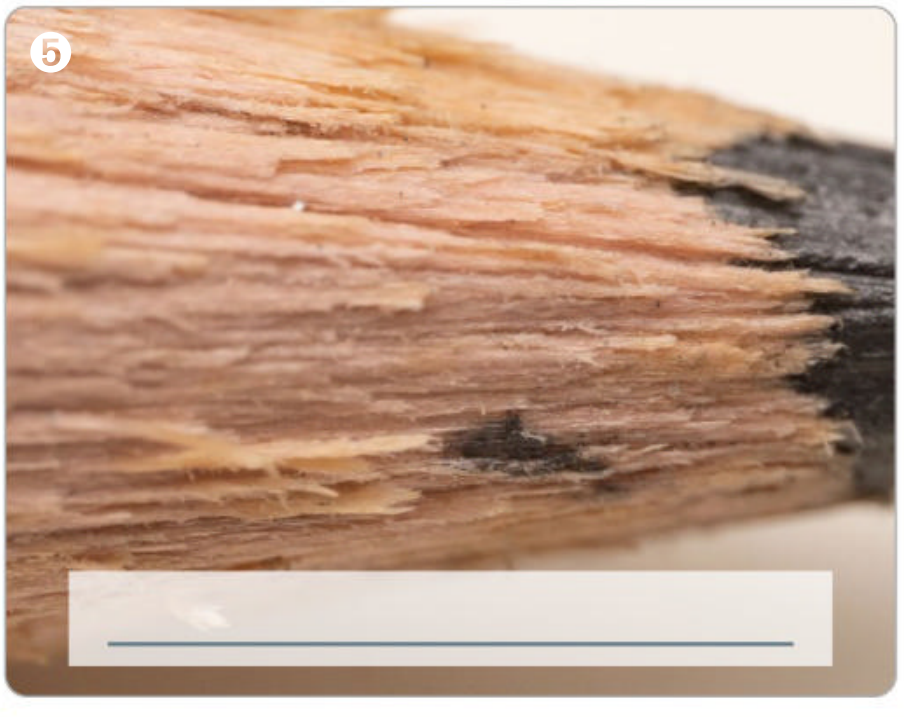
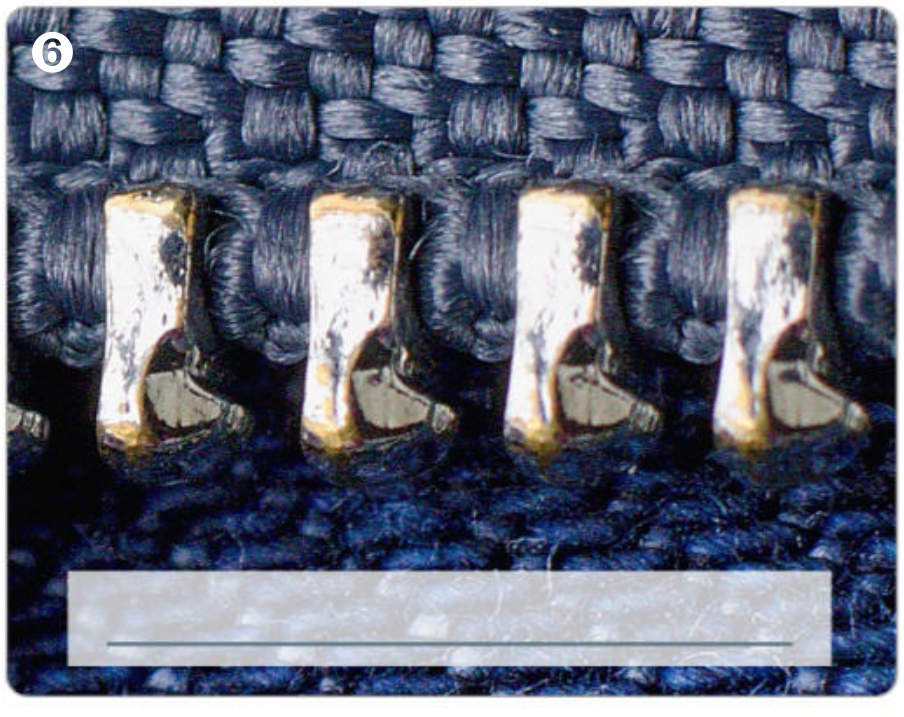


4

5



6



BOTH PAGES: PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: GETTY IMAGES

Super word ladder

To change the word JUST into the word YEAR, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up. When you're done, read the yellow highlighted words to get a special message from us.

	J U S T
Have to ▶	
Tall post that supports a ship's sails ▶	
A play's players ▶	
It's wheeled into a supermarket ▶	
Skin bump that's said to be caught from toads (but isn't really) ▶	
"Hang on—I'm not ready yet." ▶	
Worm on a fishhook, for example ▶	
_____ out (remove water from a leaky boat) ▶	
Some icy precipitation ▶	
Corridor ▶	
What Jack and Jill went up ▶	
Plow the soil before planting seeds ▶	
Recite a story to others ▶	
"Ding-a-ling-a-ling" thing ▶	
Clothing item around the waist ▶	
Winner of the top prize ▶	
Where a baby bird or platypus hatches ▶	
Word called out by a clerk who's finished serving a customer ▶	
Brief written message from one phone user to another ▶	
Shelter used during a campout ▶	
Like your legs when you squat ▶	
Sound of a drum or a heart ▶	
Animal known for hibernating each winter ▶	
	Y E A R

ALPHA-FILL

Complete the grid by placing each letter of the alphabet in a different box. Some words can be completed with more than one letter choice, but there is only one way to complete the grid.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Find the match

Can you spot which two of these nutcrackers are the same?

An unbelievable year

These eight surprising stories from 2022 really made our jaws drop. Is the last one real or fake?

Pigcasso in action

Painting pig amazes with artwork

A painting made by a pig has sold for about $27,300. The pig, who goes by the name "Pigcasso," was rescued by an animal shelter in South Africa in 2016. The shelter's founder, Joanne Lefson, noticed that Pigcasso ate or destroyed just about everything in her path—except for some paintbrushes. Lefson put a canvas in the pig's stall and encouraged her to paint, and now the 1,500-pound animal has created more than 400 works of art. Lefson said the recently sold painting is a sign of how amazing Pigcasso and other farm animals are. "You can't look at it and not place greater value on their intelligence. . .and creativity," she said.

Would you take a dip in a cheesy river?

A request for a river full of queso

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission in South Carolina received an unusual request—could they fill the lazy river at a local water park with cheese dip? "We could all just float in the river with a bag of chips and a long twisty straw," Hagan Ragland wrote, "and have the time of our lives with that sweet, sweet queso." A parks employee replied that Ragland's idea would, unfortunately, not be possible since there are no tortilla chips large enough to carry people down the river.

Broccoli made beautiful

Artist sculpts fish out of broccoli

A sculpture of a leaping fish made from a stalk of broccoli has been created in Japan. The sculptor, a chef and artist who goes by the name Gaku, specializes in a Japanese technique called *mukimono* that involves carving fruits and vegetables into amazing designs. Gaku has already made a rabbit out of an avocado, a flower from a watermelon, and a shrimp from a carrot. He spent three hours creating the broccoli fish, carving each individual scale in detail.

Corn Kid

Veggie video star goes viral

A 7-year-old's passion for eating vegetables made him a social media sensation. When Tariq was interviewed for the YouTube channel Recess Therapy, he professed his love for corn—describing it as a "big lump with knobs" that "has the juice" and adding, "I can't imagine a more beautiful thing!" In addition to receiving 10 million views on YouTube and more than 76 million views on TikTok, the video was also remixed into a popular song. Tariq became famously known as "Corn Kid" and was named an official "Corn-bassador" by the state of South Dakota.

That's unbelievable!

Slacklining in the sky

Acrobatics among the clouds

Rafael Bridi is walking on air. The Brazilian daredevil achieved a Guinness World Records title by crossing a slackline (a narrow piece of fabric stretched across a gap, similar to a tightrope) between two hot-air balloons 6,236 feet above the ground. The balloons were about 59 feet apart, and the adventurer walked barefoot. Guinness World Records shared a video of the feat online after verifying the title of highest slackline walk. "Maximum inspiration comes from the most unimaginable dreams," Bridi wrote on social media.

The giant tuber

Doug the Potato's record is roasted

While weeding in their garden last year, New Zealand couple Colin and Donna Craig-Brown found a gigantic potato weighing 17.4 pounds. Well, they thought it was a potato. After submitting Doug (named because it was "dug" up) to Guinness World Records for testing, they learned that it was not a giant spud after all. It was the tuber, or enlarged stem, of another plant. A Guinness official said, "This has been a fascinating journey of discovery, and we're glad we've been able to get to the root—well, technically, tuber—of the matter."

Some ap-peeling artwork

Bruised bananas become art

Anna Chojnicka, an artist based in the UK, has been creating artwork by bruising the skins of bananas. She doesn't use pens, pencils, or paints but instead lightly presses into the skin with an object that isn't sharp. Over time, these invisible lines slowly start to become black, revealing her artwork. She has created more than 800 pieces of banana art, with subjects ranging from cartoon characters to animals. After taking photographs of the results, Chojnicka always finishes her work by eating the banana.

Was this the first hamstronaut?

A hamster's adventure in space

A hamster was sent on an epic balloon trip 14 miles above the Earth's surface. The Japanese space company Iwatani Giken put the hamster in a special airtight cabin and attached it to a flying balloon before launch. The rodent flew into a layer of the atmosphere called the stratosphere at a speed of 20 feet per second before safely returning to Earth. Despite the exciting nature of the trip, the hamster was seen sleeping most of the time. What do you think? Is this a real story, or is it a ham-handed lie?*

*Real! The hamster really did go to the stratosphere. Iwatani Giken wants to make space travel available to ordinary people, so it launched the hamster into the stratosphere to show that it is safe.

GO VISUALS/CATERS NEWS; DONNA CRAIG-BROWN/AP; @BANANA_BRUISER/INSTAGRAM; ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: PIGCASSO.ORG; GETTY IMAGES (2); @GAKU_CARVING/INSTAGRAM; RECESS THERAPY/YOUTUBE

Editor's note

When we were putting this special year-end issue together, I was reminded of all the incredible things that happened in 2022. A new Supreme Court justice was confirmed (p2), and Americans voted in the midterm elections (p4). The National Zoo marked 50 years of panda conservation (p8), and the James Webb Space Telescope sent back stunning images (p10). Athletes achieved spectacular feats (p14–15), and a *Minions* movie broke box-office records (p16).

That's a fraction of what you can read about and remember in this issue. We are also pleased to include two bonus sections as our gift to you: extra pages of recipes and crafts (p20–25), plus a brain-bending section of puzzles (p26–31). Have fun!

A highlight for me this year was seeing our staff in person after two years of producing the magazine remotely. They all agree with me that the best part of our jobs is YOU, our readers. Thank you for reading *The Week Junior* and for all the letters and photos you've sent us—like the ones on the next three pages!

Our offices will be closed for the next two weeks, but we will be back in January to send you Issue 143. Until then, we wish you a joyful new year!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

This year's staff meetings often included cupcakes!

Your year in photos

We received so many amazing photos from our readers in 2022. Thank you! You told us inspiring stories of how you are helping others. You showed us the recipes and crafts you made from our How To section. You wrote to us about your love of reading. And you visited exciting places and took *The Week Junior* with you! As a fun look back, here are some of the reader photos we featured in 2022. We can't wait to see what you send us in 2023! Your photos and stories can be emailed to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We love hearing from you!

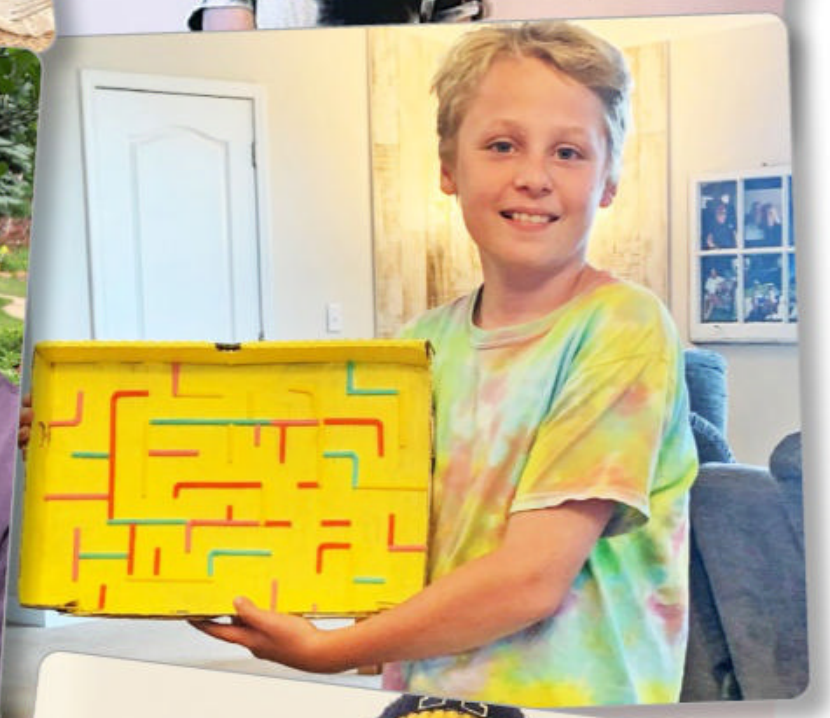
YOU FOUND WAYS TO HELP OTHERS!

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY READERS

IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

YOU MADE RECIPES AND CRAFTS!



We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Your turn

YOU VISITED EXCITING PLACES!

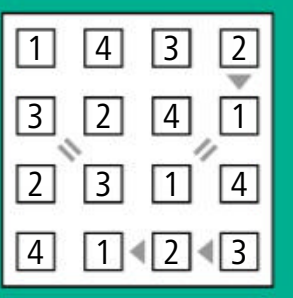
YOU SHOWED US YOUR LOVE OF READING!

Puzzle and quiz answers

Boost your brainpower (pages 26–31)

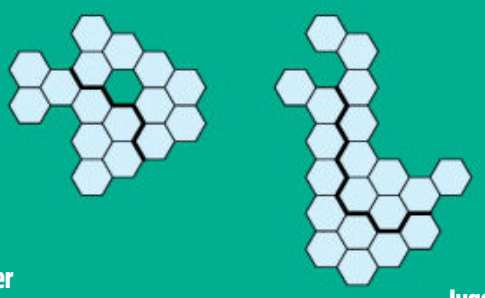
Super 2022 crisscross The highlighted letters spell NEWSMAKERS.

A	S	T	R	O	S		T		C			V	S			K	R			
	C		L		U		B	L	A	C	K	H	O	L	E		G	E	N	O	M	E
	O		R	I	G	H	T	S		I				T		R		T		T		V	
	T			V				P		M		Q	U	E	E	N	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E	I	A	N			N			N		G		N		R		
	S			A				L		T				C			A		E		J				
		U		R		G	O	L	D	E	N	S	T	A	T	E	W	A	R	R	I	O	R	S	
T	I	K	T	O	K			I		C				N			I				B				
		R		D				N		H				T			L		T	U	R	K	I	Y	E
		A		R				G		A		W	O	R	D	L	E				O				C
B	E	I	J	I	N	G		B		N		P					I				W		C		O
I		N		G			P	E	N	G	U	I	N	S		N	A	T	H	A	N	C	H	E	N
D		E		O				E		E		C					M				J		O		O
E			W			J					K	P	O	P			S				A		C		M
N	A	T	O			E		F				L				E			C	D	C		O		Y
	R		R		C	O	R	A	L	R	E	E	F			L					K		T		
	T		L			P		U				B		W	E	D	D	E	L	L	S	E	A		B
E	N	D	U	R	A	N	C	E		G	A	S				E					O		C		I
M		C			R		I				L		F	D	A			M	I	N	I	O	N	S	
I		U			D						L				F				L					O	
S	U	P	P	L	Y	C	H	A	I	N		S	I	M	O	N	E	B	I	L	E	S		N	



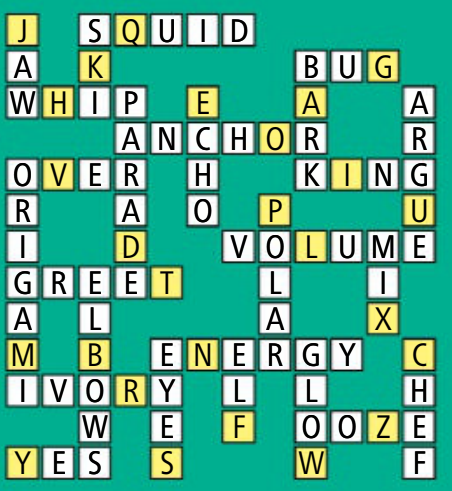
Up close
1. Blue eye
2. Peacock feather
3. Strawberry
4. Toothbrush
5. Pencil point
6. Zipper

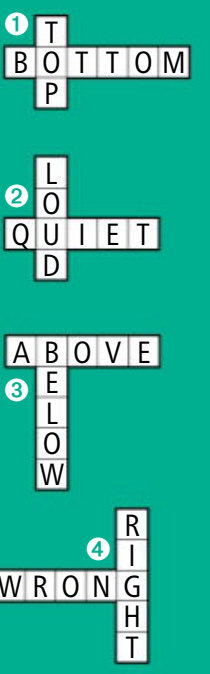
Mirror, mirror
The images that are reversed are:
1, 5, 6, 7, 9



Made to order
US states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Louisiana
Pizza toppings: pepperoni, mushrooms, anchovies
Water transport: freighter, speedboat, submarine

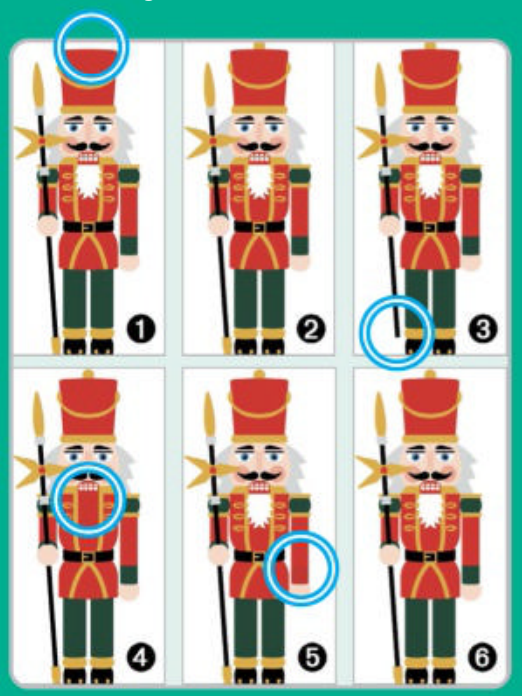
Juggling act
silo
lips
oils
slim
sail
silk



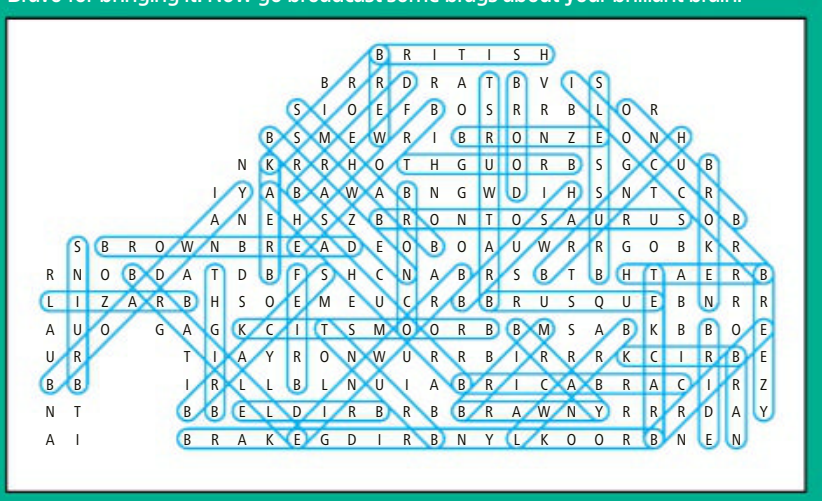


Super word ladder
JUST
must
mast
cast
cart
wart
WAIT
bait
bail
hail
hall
hill
TILL
tell
bell
belt
best
nest
NEXT
text
tent
bent
beat
bear
YEAR

Find the match
Numbers 2 and 6 are the same; the circles indicate what is missing from the others.



Super winter word search Unused letters:
Bravo for bringing it! Now go broadcast some brags about your brilliant brain.



GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY READERS

Quiz (page 38)
1 a) Bloodhound **2** True **3** c) 22 **4** Three **5** b) Lionel Messi **6** False. You play as a cat. **7** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* **8** False. It has nearly tripled since 2009. **9** b) 1922 **10** True **11** c) Star Wars **12** True **13** c) Spirit of Innovation **14** Midterm **15** True

How much of this year's news can you remember?

1 A dog named Trumpet was the first of which breed to win Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show?

a) Bloodhound b) Poodle

c) Golden Retriever

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? NASA's James Webb Space Telescope captured an image of columns of gas and dust called the Pillars of Creation.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Harini Logan spelled how many words correctly in 90 seconds to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee?

a) 12 b) 16 c) 22

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 How many giant pandas currently live at the Smithsonian's National Zoo?

5 Who won the Golden Ball award for most outstanding player at the FIFA World Cup?

a) Kylian Mbappé b) Lionel Messi

c) Luka Modrić

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? In the video game Stray, you play as a dog that's separated from its family.

True ☐ False ☐

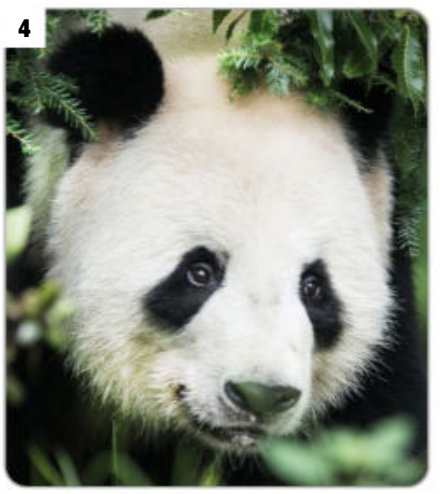
7 In the book *The Lucky Ones*, a teacher gives a copy of what book to Ellis?

8 True or false? The population of tigers in Nepal has nearly doubled since 2009.

True ☐ False ☐

3

4



2

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37.

9

14

9 In what year was the Lincoln Memorial dedicated?

a) 1892 b) 1922 c) 1952

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? "We Don't Talk About Bruno" was the highest-charting song from a Disney animated movie since 1995.

True ☐ False ☐

11 A starfighter from what famous sci-fi franchise is on display at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum?

a) Avatar b) Star Trek c) Star Wars

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? Stephen Curry won his first NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award in 2022.

True ☐ False ☐

13 What is Rolls-Royce's record-setting electric airplane called?

a) Spirit of Ingenuity

b) Spirit of Inspiration

c) Spirit of Innovation

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 What is the name for elections that happen halfway through a US President's four-year term?

15 True or false? A Japanese company sent a hamster attached to a balloon into the stratosphere.

True ☐ False ☐

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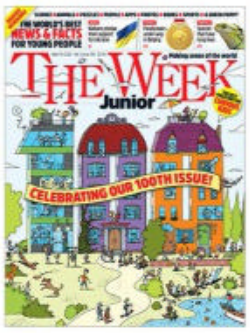

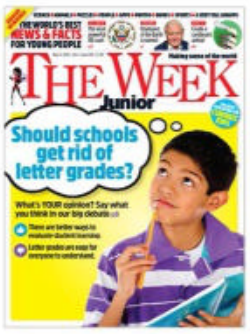

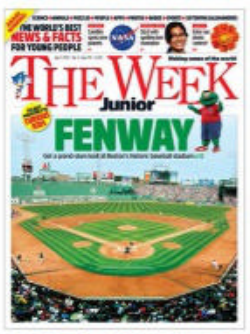

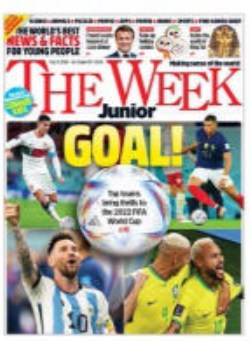

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